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Fifty-seventh year

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Thursday, 25 July 2002, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Chungong
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	Colombia	Mr. Franco
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Ryan
	Mauritius	Mrs. Huree-Agarwal
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

Women, peace and security.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Women, peace and security

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Grenada, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Nigeria and the Republic of Korea, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Stuart (Australia), Mr.Heinbecker (Canada), Mr. Maquieira (Chile), Ms. Løj (Denmark), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Miss Durrant (Jamaica), Mr. Motomura (Japan), Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein), Mr. McIvor (New Zealand), Mrs. Yahaya (Nigeria) and Mr. Sun Joun-Yung (Republic of Korea) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Guéhenno to take a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

It is so decided.

I invite Ms. King to take a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

It is so decided.

I invite Ms. Heyzer to take a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to welcome Members of the United Nations, our visiting speakers, our guests and visitors at the back of the Chamber to this unusual open debate on conflict, peacekeeping and gender.

Allow me to begin by saying a few words about the format for the meeting. I shall shortly be inviting Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno, Assistant-Secretary Angela King, and the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Noeleen Heyzer, to talk to us for a few minutes about their work in this field. I will then invite Member States to comment and ask questions, and I propose to give the floor to three Council members, then three non-Council members, or according to the numbers, perhaps two non-Council members, until I reach the end of the speaker's list. I shall also invite our panel to respond to points raised at appropriate moments throughout the debate. I shall wind up the meeting with a short summary.

We circulated a note a few days ago setting out the objectives for this meeting and giving a few details about the format we will be following. Spare copies are available in the room. I shall also like to inform members that in my capacity as Council President I held a meeting earlier this week with representatives of the non-governmental organizations (NGO) Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, at which I invited them to raise issues of importance to their organizations that are relevant to today's discussion. I can say that that exchange that I had with that working group was very informative. These groups have done

an enormous amount of work on the mainstreaming agenda, on the issue of women and families in areas of conflict. We circulated a short note outlining the main points raised at that meeting, and there is also literature from some of these NGOs available for Member States on the table immediately outside this room. I recommend that you pick up that literature, because some of it is very interesting on work in this field.

I would now like to give the floor to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno.

Mr. Guéhenno: I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this discussion, as we prepare to mark, this October, the second anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security.

Before addressing the areas in which the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has made concrete progress in implementing that resolution, I would like to say something on a personal note. When I arrived at the head of the DPKO, almost two years ago, I sensed from various quarters some scepticism about the dialogue about gender mainstreaming. Many appeared to misperceive it as a superficial exercise in political correctness. I should confess that I was not always immune from this misperception.

It is now plainly obvious, though, that such an attitude is not only misguided; it is also a drastic misunderstanding of what gender mainstreaming is all about. Gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping is about recognizing that all segments of society are affected by conflict, sometimes in different ways, and that all segments of society also have a role to play in helping to end the violence and lay the foundation for sustainable peace.

Traditionally, we have underestimated this point, because we wrongly assumed that conflict and peace are gender-blind. They are not. Certain crimes, whose incidents can increase in a conflict setting, are specifically targeted at women and girls. Certain efforts at reconciliation have a totally different dynamic when women are included in the peace process. In some case, women's groups comprise individuals who were not engaged in combat, and thus might be more open to dialogue. In other cases, the women's group concerns can be more radicalized, because they consist of those whose husbands, fathers and sons were killed during the fighting. Furthermore, we should not assume that all combatants are men. There are women combatants, and, sadly, child soldiers as well.

The need for heightened gender perspective applies to all areas of work in a peacekeeping mission, including in areas one might otherwise overlook. Take, for example, a very small but illustrative case.

In East Timor, the United Nations was given the unprecedented role of administering the territory. This included running the prisons and building correctional facilities. It may not immediately occur to many that not all prisoners are men. There are women who commit crimes, and they are in quite separate prison facilities. As a result, there is a requirement to hire women corrections officers, often through proactive recruitment.

In order to properly budget for these distinct requirements, among others, one needs to be able to forecast crime rates among women. The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), facing urgent demands, did not think about this until its work was considerably advanced. It thus had to address this issue post facto, once the recruitment process for prison guards was almost complete. Taking all of these factors into account is not political correctness. It is just part of the job.

The example that I have just given is a very small one among hundreds. There can be a gender dimension to virtually every aspect of what peacekeepers do, whether it would be dealing with the perpetrators of crime, the victims of violence, or the political actors and civic leaders with whom the real prospects of sustainable peace reside. Recognizing these facts and taking action accordingly is what gender mainstreaming is all about.

As far as DPKO is concerned, we do not need further convincing that gender awareness must feature more prominently in our work. I am pleased to report that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made some concrete progress in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) within specific peacekeeping operations, notably in East Timor, in Kosovo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sierra Leone and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Five special focus areas stand out in particular, as follows: addressing gender-based violence; responding to the trafficking in women and children; incorporating gender perspectives into the process of disarmament, demobilization and

reintegration of refugees and displaced persons, including former combatants; facilitating the participation of women in constitutional and electoral reform and civil administration; and lastly, combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. We have done quite a lot of work in each of these five areas, though in deference to time limitation on our opening statement, I will just note a few highlights at this stage.

Since the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) launched a nationwide domestic violence project in November 2001, more than 300 cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse have been reported and acted upon by the police. Anti-trafficking efforts of UNMIBH have been enhanced since March 1999, by creating the so-called STOP programme — Special Trafficking Operations Project — in July 2001, which has since conducted over 400 operations against bars and brothels. Some 1,442 women and girls have been interviewed and offered assistance with repatriation. Three safe houses for trafficking victims have been established in coordination with the International Organization for Migration.

In Kosovo, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo promulgated a Trafficking in Human Persons Regulation for the protection of victims.

In the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mission personnel received training and advice on how to mainstream the gender perspective into all areas of their work. This covers all areas from human rights monitoring, including dealing with crimes of sexual abuse, gender violence and exploitation, to dealing with the different needs of male and female, and child, ex-combatants.

In East Timor — which is perhaps the best example of how maintaining the focus on gender, or gender mainstreaming, can yield significant results — political parties voluntarily included women on the tickets after considerable debate within the Timorese civil society. As a result, women represented 27 per cent of the total number of candidates returned to the Constituent Assembly, the highest percentage ever under a United Nations-sponsored election.

At Headquarters, a handbook on multidimensional peacekeeping operations is being finalized, which features a key chapter on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping, as well as best practices and lessons learned from mission experiences. In addition, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), we are developing specific guidelines for different elements of peacekeeping operations on mainstreaming gender issues, and monitoring and evaluating the outcomes.

Lastly, I should like to reiterate that the Secretary-General maintains a zero-tolerance policy on the engagement of peacekeepers in acts of sexual exploitation, harassment, and trafficking of women and girls. We urge troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate disciplinary, and if needed, criminal action against a national who commits such acts. For its part, the Department is improving preventive measures and strengthening its policies and procedures for disciplinary action against anyone accused of being involved in such unacceptable acts. Our training material and the admission programmes are being revised to place particular emphasis on this point.

Furthermore, through collaborations with United Nations and national partners, and by the deployment of HIV-AIDS policy officers in four field missions, United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) and United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), we are developing and implementing strategies to reduce transmission of HIV-AIDS.

Much of the progress we have achieved to date in our missions in East Timor, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone is in large part due to the presence of full-time gender advisers. They make a real difference in ensuring that all parts of an operation are made aware of the gender dimensions of their work, beginning first by speaking to the women of the country concerned, who are best placed to set the agenda in a way that is sensitive to local traditions and context.

Gender advisers offer suggestions on practical steps to address gender concerns in a manner appropriate to each unique mission circumstance and, consequently, significantly enhance our ability to implement resolution 1325 (2000). While much has been done to date, far more remains to be done, both in the field and at Headquarters.

In conclusion, much of what I have said about the importance of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping may seem self-evident today. Yet the fact that a few years ago these same ideas may not have been understood as clearly is a testament to the ability of Council debate to alter our thinking and approach.

Put simply, the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) has precipitated a change in perceptions and it is natural that this process of change can sometimes be slow, face setbacks and scepticism. Inevitably, however, misguided cynicism will be overtaken by the facts. It is only a matter of time.

The President: I thank Mr. Guéhenno for that important statement and pay tribute to the work the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has done in this area of gender mainstreaming. You got us off to a good start for this debate.

I call on Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

Ms. King: It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this open debate of the Security Council on conflict, peacekeeping and gender and to present some findings, challenges and recommendations from the Secretary-General's study on women, peace and security mandated by the historic Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

I would like to pay special tribute to the President of the Security Council for taking the initiative to organize this debate. The linkage between gender and peace is not new. The Mexico First World Conference on Women — Equality, Development and Peace in 1975, through the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies in 1985, the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and the Windhoek Declaration and Plan of Action in 2000 are all historic milestones on our way to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

How is this particular study unique? Its main strength is that it is based on input from all United Nations entities participating in the Inter-agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. It benefits from a coordinated wealth of wisdom and experience of the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field as well as from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Non-Governmental Group (NGO) Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, and from the distinguished former Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSG), scholars, practitioners and women grass-roots leaders.

The study is unique as it provides the first systematic overview of gender-related activities in the peace and security field. It reveals the impact of armed conflict on women and girls at every stage and highlights the corrosive and pervasive violence against women and girls that still exists, and often persists after the conflict, as domestic violence and trafficking. It spells out the role of women, and the obstacles they face in contributing to all aspects of sustainable peace. It also sets out concrete gender perspectives at every phase of conflict and peace-building.

If Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is a blueprint for the integration of a gender perspective in peace and security, then the study is a tool from which practical recommendations can be drawn.

Its main conclusion is that sustainable peace and lasting security cannot be achieved without women's empowerment and full involvement. It unequivocally demonstrates that women do make a difference.

The findings of two wider issues are, first, that a mere cessation of hostilities does not bring an end to today's intra-state conflict. Women are beginning to transform societies by changing social institutions, traditional gender roles, and influencing warring parties. Secondly, lasting peace must be home-grown and based on indigenous processes. Local women who hold communities together during conflict bring these experiences into peace processes and into rebuilding their societies.

The study shows that women and girls can also be combatants and perpetrators and, where that occurs, they must equally be brought into the process of disarmament, demobilization, resettlement and capacity-building after conflict.

The challenges shown by the study are the lack of political will to recognize women as equal partners and insufficient understanding of how to translate gender equality into our policies or adapt best practices.

It is surprising, on one hand, to learn how much United Nations entities have done to develop gender sensitive guidelines and policies, some of which you have just heard from Mr. Guéhenno. On the other hand, it is disappointing to learn how little monitoring and self-evaluation is carried out, even when dealing with

training, which is usually extensive but lacks follow-up.

Among the many recommendations of the study are that the incorporation of a gender perspective in peace and humanitarian operations must, at all times, have the full support of the Security Council in Council mandates and reporting.

The Security Council and the Secretary-General should ensure that all peace agreements and even informal understandings include the issue of the protection of women and children and establish efficient mechanisms for holding parties accountable.

States in conflict, mediating States and United Nations negotiating teams should ensure the participation of women at all stages and at all levels of peace processes.

All missions should have gender advisers visibly supported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, adequately supported and backstopped by Headquarters in the person of a senior gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). As we have heard, where these exist the mission has a far greater chance of being successful. The necessary financial resources for gender-related programmes must be part of the mission's approved budget. The Secretariat should maintain a database of civil society organizations, to serve as a resource for consultations by the United Nations.

Greater efforts should be made to increase the percentage of women overall in policy and decision-making positions, such as SRSGs in peace operations.

Existing inter-agency mechanisms should promote a principled approach to gender equality, including the sharing of effective guidelines, codes of conduct and policies, to ensure that those violators under the United Nations flag are brought promptly to justice.

The Security Council should review the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by Member States, the United Nations system and civil society annually.

Many other recommendations on protection issues, humanitarian law, girl-child soldiers, disarmament, demobilization, resettlement and rebuilding are included in the study.

Thank you for the opportunity of addressing the Council. I look forward to your views and guidance.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I should like to pay tribute to Ms. King and her whole team in the Division for the Advancement of Women for the work they are doing. We have already seen from the first two interventions how various parts of the Secretariat are interacting with one another on this issue and are beginning to focus in on the same points. I very much hope that Council members will take up the points that Ms. King has made and that they will use this opportunity to make their comments on where we have gotten thus far in order to provide some input into the Secretary-General's report, which is still under preparation. It is an important point for an interactive debate.

I now call on the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer.

Ms. Heyzer: First of all, it is an honour to address the members of the Security Council. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for convening this debate on Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Two days ago, I returned from Rwanda. As I address the Council today, I am reminded of the women I met and of their achievements against the greatest odds. They won the legal rights to their land and to their inheritance. They adopted orphans and children born of rape. They risked their lives in the pursuit of justice, and they are supporting their families by confronting HIV/AIDS. Those courageous women are, at the same time, reconciling their past and rebuilding their future.

Making resolution 1325 (2000) work means making sure that the challenges facing women like these become a regular item on the political agenda, in thematic debates and every time a country situation is addressed. In moving this agenda forward, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to carry out a study on women, peace and security. To complement that study, and to give women from conflict zones a vehicle for expression, I appointed two independent experts to carry out a global, field-based assessment of the impact of armed conflict on women and of women's role in peace-building. It is crucial that women's voices be heard and that their work on the ground be valued, recognized and supported. After all,

it is they who bear the brunt of conflicts, and decisions should be made with them, not for them.

We hope that, together, these two reports will bridge operational and political actions in support of peace and security. That nexus goes to the heart of our debate today. Humanitarian and human rights concerns do not compromise military and political decision-making; rather, they are intrinsic to it. That is the human security equation.

Over the past year, the independent experts, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Elisabeth Rehn, travelled to 14 conflict areas, the majority of them on the Council's agenda. The experts' complete findings and recommendations will be released in October to mark the two-year anniversary of the Council's landmark resolution. Together with the issuance of the Secretary-General's report, a comprehensive agenda for action will be proposed.

Today's session lays the groundwork for that occasion. In preparation, I wish to share with the Council eight principal findings and recommendations.

The first concerns prevention. Information from and about women in conflict situations has not informed preventive action. We all know of the forced exclusion of Afghan women from public spaces and of the risks they took to provide schooling and medical care, and how that came to symbolize the crisis in that country. But indicators of that kind are not monitored or even systematically collected. This is as much a problem of expertise as one of organizational shortcomings. The experts will recommend ways for such information to be collected, analyzed and made available in a way that is politically meaningful.

The second concerns protection. The glaring gaps in women's protection must be addressed. The experts were overwhelmed by the magnitude of violence suffered by women before, during and after conflict. They heard testimony of gang rapes and of wombs punctured by guns. Impunity still prevails for these widespread crimes against women in war.

The third concerns HIV/AIDS. Wherever a woman lives with conflict and upheaval, the threat of HIV/AIDS and its effects are multiplied. HIV/AIDS feasts on that deadly alliance. These are precisely the conditions in which peacekeepers can make a difference in promoting awareness and in providing support to local communities.

The fourth concerns peace processes. Formal negotiations that exclude half the population from the political process have little hope of popular support or of sustainability. The whole peace process suffers when women are absent. Quotas have brought women into the political process. In the short run, quotas are the only way to ensure the participation of women and therefore a more democratic, representative and sustainable peace.

The fifth concerns peace operations. The experts found that a gender perspective — while it is growing and improving, as we have heard — is still not sufficiently incorporated into peace operations. Rather, it is isolated in the form of a single staff person or of a small unit lacking sufficient seniority and resources. Women in a local community often still have little contact with missions nor do they believe that their needs are taken into account. The experts recommend that gender expertise inform all aspects of mission planning and operation. That must begin with the very concept of operation. They also recommend that peace operations leverage their support for women by drawing heavily on the strength of operational bodies, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund.

The sixth concerns codes of conduct. The experts were alarmed at the reports of violations committed by peacekeepers and by United Nations and other humanitarian personnel. They support the Secretary-General's call for zero tolerance for those who commit such crimes, and they recommend stronger investigative and disciplinary mechanisms.

The seventh concerns regional organizations. Such organizations play an important role in protecting women and in supporting their participation in peace-building. The experts welcome the priority being given to women in the framework of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. They look to women's peace organizations at the regional level to contribute to such efforts. Many of these peace organizations and networks have been supported by UNIFEM.

The eighth concerns disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). The beneficiaries of DDR programmes must not be limited to male combatants.

Female combatants and the wives, widows and other dependents of ex-fighters must be included explicitly. Without gender-focused DDR, women and girls may be left with little choice but to exchange sexual favours for food, shelter, safe passage and other needs.

I would like to conclude with a message entrusted to me by the women I met in Rwanda. Many of them have testified against war criminals who still wield power and influence. They have endured the pain of telling, retelling and reliving their stories, often without privacy or security. More than 60 per cent of these women have HIV/AIDS. Women seeking justice need protection and look to the standards set by the International Criminal Court. They ask for witness protection, for counselling and for security. They ask for legal support. They ask for a separate chamber and for female judges to hear cases of women survivors of sexual violence. And they ask for sanctions against Tribunal staff who do not respect the rights of witnesses. The women of Rwanda know that the Security Council can take practical steps to make a difference. These women have survived genocide, and now they face continued intimidation and physical threats. For them, it is a matter of life and death. Immediate action is now needed.

There cannot be justice without accountability. With few exceptions, those responsible for crimes against women have not been punished and women have not been granted redress. Accountability means being answerable to women for crimes committed against them; it means punishing those responsible and ensuring redress for victims. But accountability alone will not ensure lasting peace. Gender equality and inclusion are fundamental values on which peace-building must be based. Women's leadership in creating and sustaining peace at the community level has proved essential for nation-building. We, the international community, must support the women and girls who are rebuilding their lives and who have committed their lives to peace and security, for which they have waited too long.

I want to leave the Council with the words of Agnes, a 13-year-old girl who had been kidnapped and who was speaking at the global conference on ending violence against women, coordinated by UNIFEM, linking five sites around the world. She said, "I want to go to school. I want to rebuild my life. How can you help me?"

The President: I thank the Executive Director for putting the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the map and for the energy she is directing into work on the ground in this area.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) *(spoke in Arabic)*: The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to commend you, Mr. President, on your initiative in convening this important meeting on women, peace and security. This attests yet again to the fact that the Security Council devotes particular attention to the role of women and to their contribution to the settlement of armed conflicts, peacekeeping and peace-building.

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) represented a qualitative step in the work of the Security Council to enhance the role of women in establishing peace and sustainable development. That resolution also contributed significantly to defining the critical components that countries must address scrupulously and with sincerity.

Allow me at the outset warmly to welcome the statement made by Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and on the Advancement of Women. We also warmly welcome here Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

It is a well-known fact that women and girls constitute the main civilian victims in times of conflict because of their vulnerability. It is estimated that 80 per cent of refugees and internally displaced persons in many countries in conflict are women and girls.

We must therefore seek to determine the root causes of these conflicts, in order to alleviate the suffering of women. In many cases, these causes include occupation, aggression and repression, not to mention poverty. We believe that it is essential for women to assume an important role. Indeed, women should be key partners in the decision-making process in order to move forward towards the establishment of peace and development.

In this connection, we are in agreement with the main ideas and opinions set out in the two statements made earlier by Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer, respectively.

One of the objectives of the Beijing Conference on Women — set out in the 2000 Platform for

Action — in which Syria actively participated, was addressing the growing role of women in the settlement of conflicts at the decision-making level and in the establishment of peace, peacekeeping and peace-building. Of course, we support greater gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping and disarmament, and we stress the role of women in the decision-making process aimed at putting an end to violence.

Here I should like to remind the international community of the status of women in the Syrian Arab Republic, in Palestine and in Lebanon and of their suffering as a result of foreign occupation. Israel's practices — oppression, killing, destruction, torture and displacement — against Arab women represent a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, of basic human rights and of all objectives set out by the United Nations in this field.

Arab women in the occupied Syrian Golan and in the occupied Palestinian territories live under tragic and inhumane circumstances. They do not enjoy even a minimum level of protection, health care, employment or education, in addition to being denied their basic human rights.

Under such circumstances, the status of Arab women, who suffer from the oppression of occupation and the inhumane practices carried out by the occupying forces, will not improve unless those practices come to an end. Those practices run counter to everything we heard in the statements made so far this morning. Furthermore, the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace would help Arab women to continue their struggle against poverty and all forms of violence.

Here we would like to draw attention to the fact that many of the victims of the Israeli massacre in the Gaza Strip two days ago were women and children.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is determined to ensure full gender quality through its national legislation as well as equal opportunities for women and men in all walks of life. Syria's national strategy for women, which is based on the Programme of Action adopted by the Beijing Conference, is one of my country's true achievements towards enhancing the role of women in all aspects of building and maintaining peace.

Mr. Chungong (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, let me in turn commend you for have placed on the agenda of this Security Council meeting the item entitled "Women, peace and security".

I should like also to thank the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. King, as well as the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Ms. Heyzer, for their outstanding contributions to this debate. I would add to this list Mr. Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, whom I wish to thank for the information he has given us this morning.

Women and girls remain vulnerable in time of peace and in time of war because of the profound gender inequalities that still characterize our societies. In time of conflict, they are targets for all kinds of violence, in particular rape and other sexual attacks.

They are also the majority of victims of anti-personnel land mines, and they are the most vulnerable to the scourge of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases due to sexual violence and to the failure of our health-care systems. Their fundamental rights are continually flouted.

The rights of women and girls are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and the abuses they endure in situations of armed conflict are violations of international law applicable to the rights and to the protection of women and girls as civilian persons. Also, one cannot stress enough the need for scrupulous compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law and of the various instruments concerning human rights that guarantee the protection of women and girls during and after conflicts. We also believe that it is the duty of Member States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those who are guilty of crimes, exaction and acts of sexual violence against women and girls. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the fact that the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the Rome Statute, has declared acts of sexual violence in times of conflict to be a war crime and in some specific circumstances to be a crime against humanity.

In addition, due to the regrettable events of the recent past, it seems useful to consider the creation of a code of conduct for the personnel of peacekeeping missions and the implementation of a system for the notification of sexual violence in peacekeeping.

Women are educators for peace both within their families and in their societies. More and more, they play an effective role in negotiations and contribute to the creation of an environment favourable to the resolution of conflicts and to peace-building. Therefore, my delegation fully supports the idea of incorporating the general considerations of gender equality in peacekeeping missions.

In addition, peacekeeping operations are by nature multifaceted and complex, involving humanitarian assistance, political aspects, the holding of elections, and programmes for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and reconstruction. All that requires, for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, a more complete understanding of the impact of armed conflicts on local populations, especially on women and children.

For that reason, we welcome the study being completed by the Secretary-General on following up and implementing Council resolution 1325 (2000). That resolution offers a global political framework for addressing the role of women in the post-conflict political process. It earnestly appeals to Member States to take appropriate measures so that women will be better represented at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

In its declaration of 2000 on the occasion of the International Women's Day, the Security Council recognized that women and girls were particularly affected by the consequences of armed conflict. In addition, the Council recognized that peace was inextricably linked to the equality of men and women and declared that the maintenance and promotion of peace and security required the equal participation of women in decision-making. Women should therefore be able to take their rightful place at the table of decision-making on questions of peace and security.

In this regard, my country would like to encourage the appointment of women as special representatives and envoys in missions to pursue good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General. Accordingly, we welcome the supporting and advising role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in promoting the participation of women in the decision-making process at all levels peacekeeping and peace-building.

It is with genuine interest that we have followed the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of armed conflict on women and girls. We have also studied the assessments made on the ground with the coordination of UNIFEM, which perfectly complement that study. We believe that the study is right on target in that it enables the Security Council and the other principal organs of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to have at their disposal new information leading to a better understanding of the needs of women on questions of peace and security.

We welcome the synergy of efforts made in the preparation of this study, which is part of the follow-up to Council resolution 1325 (2000). We support UNIFEM's evaluation of various conflict situations. We also encourage priority being given to women and to peace-building in the framework of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. We hope that the networks of women involved in the struggle for the peace and security of nations can contribute to those efforts.

We also welcome the recommendations of the seminar workshop of UNIFEM's consultations on Central Africa, which took place in my country, at Douala, from 28 to 30 May 2002. In this context, networks and organizations of the women of Central Africa for peace have asked the Economic Community of Central African States to strengthen its support and collaboration with them in order to ensure the greater participation of women in the management of conflicts and in peace-building in the subregion.

Accordingly, in its sixteenth ministerial meeting, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa recommended the creation of a network of women of Central Africa for peace with a view to involving them in ongoing peace negotiations on Central African conflicts. In this regard, I would like to mention the remarkable role played by women in the recent inter-Congolese negotiations on the political situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which took place in Sun City.

In conclusion, the delegation of Cameroon awaits with interest the final text of the Secretary-General's report on women, girls, peace and security, to be published in October 2002. Cameroon hopes that today's debate will strengthen the efforts of the United

Nations system to improve the conditions of all women.

The President: Forgive me, but I do hope that delegations will try to keep their remarks down to around five minutes. I asked speakers at the beginning to remain succinct, and we will not get through this debate with interest unless we are sharp and pick up the points which have been made by the speakers at the beginning of the debate.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): I too want to thank Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Ms. Angela King and Ms. Noleen Heyzer for their statements.

I want to begin by saying that Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno was a very brave man when he began his remarks by saying that he had encountered some scepticism. I believe that he said that in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) this was an exercise in political correctness and not really something of real value. To be completely candid, I thought that in some ways Mr. Guéhenno tabled the most important point that we need to address in today's meeting, because, looking around this room, what I detect most of all is a huge, invisible elephant of scepticism about the value of this exercise.

Of course, those who are sceptical about this exercise are not going to come here and say "I am sceptical about this exercise; it is just a pure exercise in political correctness". But they exist, and to some extent, that is reflected in the fact that only 11 countries have signed up for this debate. Also, the number of seats that are occupied gives some indication of the degree of scepticism.

I make this point at the beginning because I thought that one useful contribution that both Ms. Angela King and Ms. Noleen Heyzer could make in the course of today's debate would be to try to slay this invisible elephant in the room. One way of doing that is to indicate that this is not an abstract exercise; it is about real life situations and real people, whose lives can and will be improved by our debate today.

It is useful to provide statistics that make the case. For example, one statistic that I came across — which I suppose is obvious — is that at the beginning of the twentieth century only 15 per cent of the casualties of conflicts were civilians, but since the end of the cold war, 90 per cent of those killed in conflict are civilians. Apparently, three out of four fatalities of war are now women and children. So there has been this huge sea change in the nature of conflicts.

If I may talk of the good old days — if I may use that phrase — when the boys went out to fight boys and then came home, those days are gone. Now conflict directly involves women and girls, and that is why we need to address this issue more directly. It would help us if more details were provided along these lines to make the case that this is not an exercise in political correctness, but, as Mr. Guéhenno emphasized, it is an important issue that we have to address.

We were asked to pose questions. I have one for Mr. Guéhenno and one for Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer.

I appreciate the point that Mr. Guéhenno has made that DPKO is fully committed to the whole exercise of gender mainstreaming. I am sure that within the Department in New York there is that commitment. But, as he knows, many of the people who are sent to the field are parachuted in from their countries. They come in; they get briefings from DPKO, and then they go out to the field. I suspect that they come with all their cultural values and attitudes intact.

Here, since I cannot criticize other cultures, I will just say that, as is known, Asian males tend to be very chauvinistic, male chauvinists. I say this with some knowledge because my wife complains that she has not fully scrubbed male chauvinism from me. These gentlemen are essentially brought up with these traditional Asian values and martial traditions, and then they are sent out into the field and told: I want you to be sensitive in the way you handle women; I want you to understand the needs of women, and so forth.

As Mr. Guéhenno himself is an expert on the whole question of values and how to handle values, I am sure that it is a major exercise communicating abstract points on paper to real people in the field. I was wondering whether he had any thoughts on this. Here I note that Ms. Heyzer bravely said in her remarks that experts found that a gender perspective is not sufficiently incorporated into peace operations. Rather, it is isolated in the form of single staff persons or small units lacking sufficient seniority or resources. This is one question that I hope Mr. Guéhenno will try to address.

My next question is to Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer. One of the points made in these discussions about the role of women is that women actually can and do make a difference when they are involved in delivering peace. For example, I understand that President Clinton said in July, after the Camp David talks, that "If we had women at Camp David, we would have an agreement."

We also know that when they are involved in peace, women actually make a difference in some areas. I have been given the example of something called Jerusalem Link, a federation of Palestinian and Israeli women's groups. In 2000 apparently its platform served as a blueprint for negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem during the Oslo process. Of course, we all know how difficult the Jerusalem issue is.

Are there concrete examples that can be provided of where the participation of women has made a difference in terms of delivering peace? It strengthens the case for saying: let us get women more involved. I noticed, for example, that, with regard to your debate, Mr. President, on the West Africa workshop, we were very concerned that all the good work that we had done in Sierra Leone might be lost by the new fighting breaking out in Liberia. I noticed that one of the two experts, Ms. Ellen Johnson Salib, is from Liberia. In my own brief visit to Liberia, I found the women in Liberia quite engaged and outspoken. Can she illustrate how the women of Liberia can play a role in trying to contain a real-life dangerous conflict that is troubling the Security Council now?

That is just one example. The others that can be provided will be very helpful.

I do actually want to apologize to Mr. Guéhenno, Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer. If I am not here to listen to their responses, I will be fully briefed. My apologies if I attend to other commitments.

Finally, two concluding points. One is that I would like to support the final concrete appeal that Ms. Heyzer made at the end of her statement about the women in Rwanda and providing some form of sufficient protection from the obvious difficulties they are facing. I hope that something can be done about that.

Secondly, I wanted to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the initiative of launching this debate. As I explained earlier, I think that it is a real issue and not one that should be dismissed. Even though there are other voices in the corridors of the United Nations that say that the Security Council's job is not involved in norm creation but rather to handle specific issues, I think that in this particular case the Council can make a difference. I hope that, when the two reports come out in October, the Council will use them to continue the process. One debate is not going to change the course of events, but it is part of a very important process. I congratulate you, Sir, for participating in this.

The President: I think I have missed a trick in this debate. I think that I should have left time for every spouse of a male member of the Security Council to have the right of reply. I am going to surprise Ambassador Mahbubani and ask Angela and Noleen to respond to his questions now.

Ms. King: Indeed, it is very important to have live examples. Because we were somewhat limited, I think we were a little reluctant to go into them, but the study for the Secretary-General is replete with examples. I would just mention the instance of the women in Burundi who got together and drew up a list of demands, and eventually — thanks to some United Nations agencies, including UNDP and UNIFEM and the leader, who was Mr. Mandela — most of those recommendations were included in the final agreement.

I would also mention the Somali women who constituted themselves into a sixth clan because they could not get into the main factions. They were very successful in bringing together the warring clan leaders at the peace table. Some of that has fallen apart, but these are very significant issues.

I think members are well aware of and very au fait with the question of the Mano River Peace Women's Network and how those women brought together the two presidents of Guinea and Sierra Leone. In the case of Liberia and Sierra Leone, women were also very successful in actually going out into the fields, mountains and places were there were no roads to persuade young child soldiers to lay down arms and to be part of the disarmament process.

What one of the studies in South Africa showed was that women tend to be less hierarchical. They also tend to link up with local women's organizations. They set role models for local women. The local women also tend to be better conveyers of the message of peace than some of the men. There are many others, but I am sure that Noleen has some others. These are just some of them.

Ms. Heyzer: All of us have our impressions. The kinds of impressions that we make and the kinds of positions that we take come from our life experiences. The representative of Singapore has the unusual opportunity to come from a place that is relatively secure. So maybe some of these issues appear to be politically correct rather than being something very urgent that needs to be addressed.

But I also know that, especially in countries in areas of conflict — and especially when I have been with the women on the ground — these are not politically correct situations. They are life-and-death situations. They are situations that can make a difference. What we decide on here to guide them will really make a difference. Therefore, it is not with the invisible elephant of scepticism but rather in efforts to change our perceptions, enlarge our experiences and immerse ourselves in the reality of the other that we tend to represent in a situation of this nature.

We have been very much involved in trying to bring women from all sides together in the peace process. In fact, with regard to the discussion on the Sudan, for many years we have brought together women from the north and south and have supported the work of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In fact, it was precisely the death of a woman from IGAD that caused many of these issues to be raised, with a lot of pressure from there. The same is true of the Burundi process; the same is true of the Congo process, and of Guatemala. I could go on. Literally in every conflict we have tried to bring together women across ethnicities and boundaries.

What difference does it make? It makes a difference in terms of the issues that it has put onto the peace accords — issues that nobody would want to talk about because of shame, because they could not articulate them, or because there was no representation of them. These are issues of land rights, rape babies, the whole systematic violation of women and redress. There is a whole variety of issues that, unless women were present, would not be put onto the peace table.

The same is also true of the participation of women in post-crisis situations. The fact that we helped the training of women in East Timor has allowed them to make sure that, in the restructuring of the constitution, women's voices are there, and that there is in fact realignment because there is a new opportunity to ensure that the new constitution aligns itself with some of the norms and standards set by the United Nations, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

There are many ways in which women have made a difference. They have made a difference because they know that that is the only way in which they can have a future for themselves and their children.

The President: I am now going to invite two speakers from the rule 37 list. I invite the representative of Jamaica to take a seat at the Council table and to make her statement.

Miss Thomas (Jamaica): First of all, let me express my delegation's congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I also commend you for convening this open meeting on conflict, peacekeeping and gender, an issue which the Security Council and the international community have recognized as being as important to the maintenance of international peace and security as the cessation of cross-border conflicts.

It has been almost two years since the adoption of Council resolution 1325 (2002) on women, peace and security, which stressed the importance of bringing a gender perspective to the centre of all United Nations peacekeeping, peacemaking, peace-building, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Most importantly, it underscored the need for international attention to what is basically a woman's human rights, as was underscored by our presentations today. We therefore support the view that this item should be regularly discussed on the international agenda and be given prominence in thematic debates every time a conflict situation is addressed.

Today's meeting serves as timely reminder that mainstreaming of a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations is yet to be fulfilled beyond a normative level and to achieve more operationalized aspects. It is in this regard that we thank the presenters — Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno; Ms. Angela King, from the Department of Women's Affairs; and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer — for their presentations this morning.

As we reflected on the findings of both reports which were shared with us this morning — the Secretary-General's study and the assessment report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

(UNIFEM), we wanted to offer a few comments and observations.

First, we concur that the linkage between gender and peace is pervasive and is a complex issue. Experiences have all pointed to the fact that women and girls share similar experience with men and boys during armed conflict, but that the culture of violence and discrimination against women and girls that exists during peace times is exacerbated during conflict. As was clearly stated this morning, women are combatants, victims and perpetrators of violence. Failure to include them in the peacemaking process will only prolong the conflict.

One of our observations is that there is a narrow definition of who a soldier is or who a fighter is, which often functions in ways that discriminate against and marginalize women and girls involved in the fighting processes. Nowhere is this more glaring than in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation (DDR) programmes. This is an issue that we want to stress. As we have noted and seen from experience, DDR programmes fail to make basic accommodations for women and girls. DDR programmes fall short of the expectation of rehabilitating women and girls into society. What often obtains is that the woman returns to a life of poverty, or even faces stigmatization.

Is there any way — and this is something that we could throw to the agencies that might be in the room, as well as to the Security Council — in which the Security Council, the United Nations and its funds and programmes could consider practical ways for a DDR structure to take into account the needs of female ex-combatants to ensure their rehabilitation into society? Perhaps we could elaborate whether such programmes exist.

Violence against women is also a growing concern, as was mentioned in the presentation this morning. We commend the positive developments in international humanitarian law, including the work of the ad hoc International Criminal Court and the special court for Sierra Leone, in defining rape and other forms of sexual violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity. This augurs well for ending impunity for violence against women. However, this legal framework should be complemented at the local level by a comprehensive framework aimed at improving existing protection for women and girls.

The reports of gender-based violence and related security issues in peacekeeping operations also need to be addressed. I was very pleased to hear the commitment by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to address this issue. Therefore, training peacekeepers in gender awareness and gender sensitivity before they go to the field, and while they are in the field, is of paramount importance. The training should not only be one shot, but continuous. There is also a need for streamlined codes of conduct and investigative and disciplinary mechanisms to be coordinated among the agencies both in the field and at Headquarters. I invite representatives to comment on that as well.

We see that domestic violence has become more widespread and systematic in conflict and post-conflict situations. We must commend the United Nations efforts in this area in addressing this in a peacekeeping environment. We have seen very positive examples in Kosovo and East Timor.

The question is: how can capacities within the peacekeeping operations be strengthened to address this crisis? We could suggest a couple of things: possibly we need more counsellors on staff in peacekeeping operations, as well as more training to deal with domestic violence. We have noted at the international level that States Parties to the Statute of the ICC can now undertake national law reform to ensure compatibility with the Statute as a matter of priority and support universal jurisdiction, which plays close attention to crimes against women. This is a positive step. At the field and institutional levels we need possibly to implement other tangible things, too.

This leads us into the role of conflict prevention, peace-building and peacemaking. Women have played an instrumental role in early warning and conflict prevention. I need not elaborate on what has been said previously, but I would encourage that there be innovative ways of including women in peace talks and negotiations. One tangible way of doing this is, first, to have closer collaboration with the non-governmental organization community and, secondly, the United Nations should continue its thrust towards strengthening the capacities of the non-governmental organizations and women's groups, because, as has been observed, the expertise exists there.

But do they have the capacity? Do they have the financing to fulfil their role as women in a very active

way in the peace process? Here I want to commend the work of UNIFEM at the field level in capacity-building and training with non-governmental organizations, and also the work of the departments of women's affairs at the governmental level.

Lastly, I address the Security Council in terms of ensuring that women's concerns are incorporated in the Council's mandates and into its decision-making. I believe that there should be a more systematic mechanism to enable women's participation in Security Council missions. The missions to conflict areas should endeavour to meet with gender advisors to gain insight into the role of women's groups, as well as to ensure informed decision-making in the formulation of peacekeeping mandates.

Most importantly, within DPKO, we firmly believe that there needs to be a greater level of coordination between Headquarters and the field. This would facilitate a more coherent policy on gender mainstreaming and the fact that gender is taken into account in the design and planning of all peacekeeping operations. It is against this background that we support the creation of a senior agenda advisor within DPKO who will serve as a focal point for giving policy advice to gender advisors in the field, as well as feed into the gender policy on gender mainstreaming. We are happy to hear that there are plans to have an agenda advisor in the Under-Secretary-General's Office. We would hope that this gender advisor would be at a sufficiently senior level in order to have access to the Under-Secretary-General.

In conclusion, the need to appoint more women as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General has been highlighted. We note that there has been some improvement, but we hope that more will be done. In this regard, we encourage Member States to endeavour to put forward to the Secretary-General names of women with the requisite experience and qualifications who can fulfil this task.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Chile, whom I invite to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Maquieira (Chile)(*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I thank you for convening this public debate on an important topic that cuts across all aspects of human well-being — namely, the maintenance of peace.

I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno, Assistant Secretary-General Angela King, and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), for their statements.

Women and children represent more than three-quarters of the 40 million people throughout the world who have been displaced by armed conflict or by human rights violations. My country, whose armed forces are brilliantly led by a woman minister, therefore welcomed with enthusiasm and renewed optimism the adoption by this body of resolution 1325 (2000), which attaches great importance to the role of women in conflict prevention, the promotion of peace and assistance in post-conflict reconstruction.

This has given even greater resonance to the words of the United Nations Charter relating to "saving future generations from the scourge of war" and proclaiming "the equal rights of men and women", thus giving renewed impetus to the urgent task of achieving concrete results in this area.

The time has come to remove the barriers that prevent women from effectively participating in decision-making processes and foreclose opportunities for them to accede to the spheres of power. Mainstreaming the gender perspective into peacekeeping operations should become a priority item on Government agendas.

Since the call contained in the Beijing Platform of Action for all necessary steps to be taken to establish a culture of peace, the international community has witnessed a rapid increase in the number of multilateral initiatives aimed at giving women the opportunity to play an important role in decision-making processes related to conflicts. While these are certainly valuable initiatives, they are still insufficient to achieve a just balance of opportunities for those who in fact constitute the main targets in armed conflicts.

It is common knowledge that peace processes are weakened when women are not included, and a consensus exists that, when a society collapses on account of conflict, women play a critical role in the maintenance of daily life. The words of the Secretary-General in this connection are unambiguous when he says that women are the ones "who build bridges and walls".

Chile looks forward to the appointment of a woman as Special Representative or Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for peace missions. We also advocate greater participation by women as military observers, civilian police and human rights and humanitarian affairs personnel.

In assuming our responsibility as active members of the Group of Friends of resolution 1325 (2000), and with a view to contributing to the implementation of that resolution, Chile has accepted the challenge of organizing, together with the presidency of the European Union, an international conference next November on "The role of women in peacekeeping operations", which will open new avenues for the practical implementation of the item under discussion. The conference would include the participation of the United Nations, civil society, experts and Governments and would seek to discuss all of the most important aspects of women's roles, not only as victims of armed conflict but also as part of the solution to such conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction. As a result, the conference must adopt a series of recommendations that could be useful to the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the rest of the United Nations system in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Likewise, Chile is extremely interested in the report being prepared by the Secretary-General that was requested by that resolution. In our opinion, it should be the cornerstone for follow-up on this issue here in the United Nations.

The President: I will now come back to three speakers on the Council list. Then I will come back to the Under-Secretary-General to comment on everything raised so far.

Mr. Diallo (Guinea)(*spoke in French*): The organization of this meeting is evidence of our Council's will and determination to continue to assume our responsibilities in the framework of the follow-of resolution 1325 (2000), entitled "Women, peace and security". Through this resolution the Security Council underscored not only the impact of conflict on women but also their role in conflict settlement and in peace-building. It also emphasized the duties of the different players in the international community. The important presentations just made by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Ms. Angela King and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer shed further light on the efforts that are under way for the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). I would like, on this occasion, to express my delegation's appreciation to them for the quality of the work accomplished.

By adopting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the international community recognized, among other things, the importance of questions related to women in armed conflict. The conclusions of the 1998 and 2001 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the recommendations of the ad hoc committee of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, "Beijing plus five", also underscored these questions in many regards.

In the framework of the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) for which responsibility falls on Governments, on the United Nations system, on regional and subregional organizations, as well as on non-governmental organizations and civil society, the following considerations deserve to be emphasized.

First, within the United Nations system, every body must identify clearly those areas in which it can make its contribution. The tank will then be to seek out areas of complementarity among the different bodies. In this regard, cooperation between Ms. Angela King's office, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is to be encouraged.

Secondly, at the country, regional and subregional levels, it will be necessary to strengthen the accomplishments, to share experiences and to envisage appropriate solutions. In this context, I am pleased to note the important role being played by Guinean women aimed at putting an end to instability in the West African subregion. In fact, the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (REFAMP) organized a subregional conference in Conakry, from 24 to 26 January 2000 on the prevention and settlement of conflicts.

This initiative was supported by the women of the Mano River Union, at the subregional level, as was indicated a while ago by Ms. Angela King. My delegation appreciates similar initiatives undertaken in other regions and subregions, and believes that the United Nations should gather information on these different experiences, so that it can be shared with the international community.

Thirdly, in the context of non-governmental organizations, we appreciate the work of the Working Group on Women, International Peace and Security. Its

actions deserve to be supported by all. We also believe that a sharing of experiences among these different parties will contribute to an overall understanding of the question before us.

My delegation appreciates the role of coordination played by Ms. Angela King's office through the establishment of a study group on resolution 1325 (2000) to contribute to the preparation of the Secretary-General's report. We are awaiting this report with interest. In our opinion, it will take into account the multidimensional nature of the impact of conflicts on women and young girls, as well as their role in the prevention and settlement of conflicts and in peace-building.

We are also convinced that the report will assess the implementation of the different provisions of the resolution and identify the obstacles to be overcome, while placing emphasis on the respective responsibilities of the different players. My country, Guinea, which has experience in the area now before us, is prepared to make its contribution to this shared effort.

Mr. Franco (Colombia) (*Spoke in Spanish*): I want to say, first of all, that I was extremely struck by the comment made by my friend, Christian Maquieira of Chile, on women ministers of defense. It seems that this is a practice that is becoming fashionable in Latin America according to news reports. There are comments and suggestions that I would like to make in this connection. The first comment relates to peacekeeping operations.

I would like to commend Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno on his efforts to mainstream the gender perspective in peacekeeping operations. It is necessary to continue to work to ensure that this is a systematic process that can be supported, we hope, by a focal point. I think you have made some announcements in this respect.

What we want to emphasize is the need to consolidate some sort of disciplinary mechanism, or to establish a code of conduct that can prevent and punish abuses that might be committed by peacekeepers, or by humanitarian workers, or by any person who is involved in providing protection and assistance to communities that are affected by situations of armed conflict. It is fundamental that we support, without reserve, the policy of zero tolerance that has been affirmed by the Secretary-General.

The second comment that I have relates to peace-building and reconstruction. The contribution of women in this field is often marginalized. But experience has shown that dealing with women as merely a vulnerable group is not appropriate. In practice, women can produce a turnaround in the dynamics of negotiation. In this regard, I believe that the examples that we have seen in response to the comments made by Ambassador Mahbubani are of great interest. Women managed to produce commitments that are more community-based. I think that in Western Africa there are very concrete examples of this. They have contributed, moreover, to those agreements that have been more successful in the long term.

This is why we believe that it is important to actively and systematically promote the involvement of women at every stage of the peace process. Even though a peace process may be fraught with difficulties, it is important to maintain that involvement. But the involvement cannot stop at that. It must also include involvement in rebuilding the political, economic and social structure after the conflict. This also concerns the daily decision-making processes of the State.

The Council must, therefore, play a central role in this regard, not only by promoting the involvement of women in peacekeeping processes, but also by promoting specific measures for women within those agreements. For the information of the presenters here and my colleagues on the Security Council, we are informally examining the feasibility of doing some kind of work on the gender issue and on the question of gender, small arms and light weapons during our own term as President in December. There are a number of months before that time, but we would be extremely grateful for any comments and suggestions that you may have in this respect.

I want to conclude with two concrete suggestions for the report. First, something very brief on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes. Here I just want to echo what was stated by our colleague from Jamaica. In other words, it is vital that women be empowered, bearing in mind their multiple roles as ex-combatants, as mothers, as providers of information, as widows, as victims, so that we can best document what the concrete contribution of women is in the DDR processes, and what can be done so that there can be greater participation of

women in these processes. This is information that can be of great usefulness to the Council, because this is one of the greatest bottlenecks in Sierra Leone, specifically in the framework of the recent debate that we have on Western Africa.

The second suggestion relates to resolution 1325 (2000). This is a resolution that is rather special because it is different from many others adopted owing to its thematic subjects. This has generated more activity on the part of civil society than any other thematic resolution. This resolution has been disseminated globally, with local implementation, and that has been the case in many places, even places not on the Council's agenda. Resolution 1325 (2000) became a real tool, and it is hard for me to imagine any other resolution with those specific characteristics. I would like to suggest to Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer that the reports should document the usefulness of that resolution, so the Security Council can be reassured that a document truly can produce change in the lives of people. I think there are many lessons to be learned from resolution 1325 (2002) for other thematic areas where there has been less success.

Mr. Kolby (Norway): It was an important breakthrough when the Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000) and included women, peace and security on its agenda. That resolution provides us with an instrument to ensure the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making and in promoting peace efforts, including conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

I commend you, Mr. President, and the United Kingdom presidency for organizing this meeting. It is clearly important that the Security Council actively follow up resolution 1325 (2000) and its implementation. I want to thank Angela King for her leadership in preparing the study on women, girls, peace and security, and Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Noeleen Heyzer for their important contributions. I am pleased to learn that recommendations for future action have been identified during the work on the study. We are looking forward to being able to closely examine the study and the report of the Secretary-General. The recommendations will be crucial for further progress in this field.

During the spring of this year several Arias formula meetings were held to provide members of the Security Council with information and views on the status of women in war-affected areas. We heard accounts of horrifying human rights breaches and abuse. Despite the many bleak stories, it must be stressed that women must not be viewed only as victims of crime and abuse. Women are peacemakers and peace builders and it is of the utmost importance that they be included at all levels of peace planning and in efforts to maintain peace in a post-conflict situation.

Norway has actively supported strengthening of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) with regard to gender issues. I regret that the gender adviser posts previously proposed by DPKO were not given needed support. We continue to believe that these posts are necessary and hope the study will contain a recommendation to include gender advisers in DPKO.

We also look forward to revision of the standard operating procedures to include gender perspectives. Policy- and decision makers need to pay attention to gender-based differences. We recommend that gender focal points be established in all United Nations mandated operations and that gender awareness be included in training packages intended for peacekeeping personnel. Also, more efforts should be made to seek out women candidates and promote women to positions, both in peace missions and as special representatives of the Secretary-General.

I also hope the forthcoming recommendations will include practical and detailed mechanisms to ensure accountability for gender mainstreaming. Implementation remains the most challenging part of this work, and efforts should be made to develop practical tools and training.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to suggest that a guidance note on gender perspectives be prepared which details issues that should be included in reports to the Security Council.

The President: I bring in Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno again to respond to some of the points that have come up.

Mr. Guéhenno: The ambassador of Singapore asked a very pointed question: how can we make sure that gender mainstreaming gets the priority and attention it deserves? He correctly stressed this is more than a question of procedures and having the right administrative unit here or there. It is a mindset and an issue of the core values the United Nations should always embody.

We must begin from the top if we want to get it right. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in each mission must set the example. When we have women SRSGs there can be a natural awareness that is not always there when we have only men. Until recently, there were no women SRSGs in a peacekeeping mission. I am pleased that our Mission in Georgia is now led by a woman and that we are also beginning to have Deputy SRSGs in missions.

However, that is certainly not enough. It is fundamental that men who run a number of our missions must have the right awareness, sensitivities and the right priorities. In order to make sure this happens, it is important that they be engaged at the highest level, that we have senior gender advisors in the office of the SRSG. I emphasize the word "senior" because I think that although our people often have the right values, a lot of ignorance still exists. The issue is not always understood, because it is not always put in concrete terms and because we have to fight centuries of neglect and, in some cases, arrogance.

If we want to win the battle, it is essential that there be a dialogue at the senior level and at Headquarters, where it is important that the issue of gender mainstreaming not be taken as just one of the many tasks that have to be performed, like managing planes, like a sort of technical issue or an afterthought in a myriad of issues. It is something that has to cut across and therefore must be addressed at the senior level.

Ignorance means there is a need for a lot of training at all levels, beginning with the briefing packages and briefings organized for SRSGs and the senior staff at the missions and continuing through all levels of staff, as well as the military and the police. A lot of work has already been done. There is now a training module that has to be systematically implemented with our troops and police. It also has to be shared with the troop-contributing countries so that the mindset we need to create in missions can be prepared through a joint effort with the Member States.

To conclude my answer to Ambassador Mahbubani's question, I would say it is essential that we have a partnership on this issue with the Member States. In that respect I commend the efforts of Chile, with its regional initiative. This kind of initiative moves things forward. As pointed out by several delegates, Member States also need to have the right resources at the right level so that the issue is addressed more systematically, not as isolated examples in different missions. We must learn from our successes so that we can transfer what has been done right in, let's say, East Timor, to what could be done better in this or that mission. This requires engagement at the highest level.

The President: We will have two more speakers from our rule 37 list. I invite the representative of Canada to the table.

Mr. Heinbecker (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this public meeting.

Resolution 1325 (2000) was a determining factor for strengthening the place of women in Security Council actions for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. As we meet today, almost two years after the adoption of that resolution, it is high time to see how much progress has been accomplished and how much remains to be done.

(*spoke in English*)

As we have heard this morning, accountability is crucial to progress on this area as on other areas of human security. In that regard, Canada was pleased to co-fund the assessment by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children of the guidelines of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the protection of refugee women. The issue of accountability for the protection of refugee women is a major element of that assessment exercise, made further relevant by recent allegations of sexual extortion in West Africa. We look forward to effective follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the assessment.

Progress has also been made in mainstreaming gender considerations into international humanitarian and criminal law. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which came into effect on 1 July, contains modern definitions of crimes against women in conflict situations, such as rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence. The Statute will ensure that the Court will have personnel and judges with legal and practical expertise in prosecuting crimes against women and children.

Furthermore, it is expected that the complementary jurisdiction of the ICC will encourage States to fulfil their own basic obligations to prevent

and punish crimes. We look forward to efforts by States members of the Court to assist the Court. Canada will do its part to facilitate the Court's efforts to prosecute and deter crimes of sexual violence, including those that might eventually be committed by peacekeepers under a United Nations flag. The ICC can be an invaluable and central part of the international response to gender-based violence in conflict.

As Angela King noted, many Member States and the Secretariat are strongly committed to integrating a gender perspective into efforts to secure and promote peace, and we commend Mr. Guéhenno for his very encouraging statement this morning. However, while progress has been made in many areas, our collective record to date in implementing the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) is not as strong as it could be or as effective as it must become. Even a cursory review of reports by the Secretary-General to the Council and of associated resolutions is enough to see that gender issues are still not receiving the attention they warrant. For the Council, whether in the context of approving new or renewed peacekeeping mandates or of reviewing the humanitarian impact of sanctions, gender implications must be integral to its analysis and to its decisions.

We urge the Council to be vigorous and persistent in ensuring that its own resolutions relating to women, peace and security — and also to the protection of civilians more generally — are implemented. The periodic appearances of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General before the Council present very useful opportunities to press this issue with people responsible in the field. Secretariat staff need the tools and the know-how to integrate gender perspectives into their work. To date, the development and the use of such tools have not been adequate. As a result, the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) are not being implemented sufficiently on the ground.

I agree entirely with the Permanent Representative of Singapore that, in areas such as this, specificity is credibility. I call on the Secretariat to go beyond abstractions and to give us the straight facts. The graphic presentation of Noeleen Heyzer this morning made clear how bad the situation still is for too many women in too many conflicts, and how far we still have to go to give concrete expression to our principled aspirations.

In that regard, following your direction, Mr. President, I should like to ask a question, which is addressed to Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno. In his speech, he referred to progress in five missions. I would welcome an indication of how well we are doing — or perhaps of how well we will be doing — in some of the other missions that were not mentioned.

We agree with Ms. King that, at Headquarters, it is essential that gender expertise be established within individual United Nations departments and agencies, such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and not simply within the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. To that end, we and others will again urge the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to authorize the resources that DPKO needs to be able to integrate gender perspectives fully into United Nations peacekeeping operations. We invite Council members to join in that effort. Without such capacity, efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000) in the field will not succeed. Equally, it is our responsibility as Member States to implement this important resolution in our own domestic and international practices and to ensure that the United Nations system is equipped to do so as well.

Mr. President, in the light of your wish to make sure that statements stay a reasonable length, I shall omit in my oral presentation the description of the things that Canada is doing domestically, although we shall circulate our written text.

Finally, we were pleased to convene the first meeting of the Friends of Women on peace and security, and we look forward to working in that area with Chile and other interested countries. We also look forward to the release of the full reports of the Secretariat and of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. In addition, we look forward to working with other Member States to continue to promote the integration of gender perspectives into the work of the United Nations system and to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

We thank you again, Mr. President, for having provided the general membership with this invaluable opportunity to discuss with the Council the implementation of that seminal resolution.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of the Republic of Korea. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea): My delegation welcomes today's debate as a timely opportunity to review developments since the adoption of the Security Council's landmark resolution 1325 (2000), of 31 October 2000. On this occasion, we renew our commitment to the important roles that women can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, as well as to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all United Nations activities in this area.

My delegation would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno for giving perspective to today's debate. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, for her tireless contributions on this subject. In particular, we applaud her efforts in leading the study on women, peace and security, as mandated by the resolution. We also commend Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), for the clarity and realism with which she conveyed to us what resolution 1325 (2000) means to women in the field and what it takes to put it into action. We look forward to the publication of the Secretary-General's report on this issue. We hope that it will contain concrete recommendations for expanding the role of women in conflict resolution, as well as their participation in peacekeeping missions.

In many situations of armed conflict, women are the most vulnerable and the most adversely affected. They are also survivors, with a resourcefulness that enables them to overcome enormous odds. A clear understanding of their needs and of their participation as key stakeholders in conflict resolution and in peace-building should greatly increase the chances for long-term, sustainable peace settlements. The starting point is to see women as active agents of change, not merely as victims or as vulnerable segments of a society. Indeed, recent experiences of conflict resolution in Afghanistan and in Sierra Leone provide evidence that the peace effort is greatly strengthened by the active participation of women in key roles.

My delegation believes that greater efforts need to be directed towards gender mainstreaming in all activities of the United Nations in the field of conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Women should be involved in far greater numbers in the ongoing endeavours to promote peace, including through their appointments as special representatives and special envoys of the Secretary-General. Indeed, their serving in such high-level United Nations positions would have a positive impact on the role of women in conflict situations.

We support the strengthening of women's capacities to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations as well as in decision-making at all levels. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of gender units in the peacekeeping missions, the most prominent example being the case of East Timor. We also support the proposed establishment of gender posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. If we are committed to making gender mainstreaming an indispensable part of the peace efforts in the field, it is only appropriate that such efforts be backed up and coordinated by full-time staff here at Headquarters.

In a conflict situation in which gender-based violence is often utilized as a tool of intimidation and war, the full force of international humanitarian and human rights law should be brought to bear upon the perpetrators. Past experience has taught us that without accountability with respect to criminal responsibility, the foundation of a durable and lasting peace will remain shaky. Thus, my delegation applauds the ongoing efforts to bring an end to the culture of impunity, such as the listing of the crime of rape in the statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, and of the International Criminal Court, as establishing important legal precedents. In this way, the international community is sending a clear and powerful message that gender-based violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent provided under the law.

In the same vein, there is a need to establish an adequate system of reporting on gender-based violence, exploitation and trafficking of women and girls, along with enforcement, disciplinary and monitoring mechanisms for peacekeeping missions. In this regard, my delegation supports gender and peacekeeping training in the field.

Finally, my delegation expresses its strong hope that the Security Council will continue to provide further momentum to according women equal and full representation in matters of sustainable peace, security and harmony around the world.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, I wish to thank you for having organized this debate, which not only represents an opportunity to help Ms. King and her staff in drafting this report and its conclusions — and we thank her for her tireless efforts in this area — but it also allows the Council to send a strong signal concerning the importance we attach to this topic in our proceedings.

Up to now, the discussion has been very interesting, and I should like in particular to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his very interesting remarks. It is very encouraging to see his Department sensitized to this issue.

The representative of the European Union will shortly be making a detailed statement on behalf of the Union. As an associated country, Bulgaria fully subscribes to that statement.

Civilian populations suffer the most from the consequences of conflicts. In those situations, women, children and the elderly are the most vulnerable. They are exploited and very often deliberately targeted as a strategic weapon.

We all recall the way in which rape was used in the conflict in Bosnia in particular. Women and girls make up a disproportionate number of the civilians affected by armed conflict. They are subjected to forcible displacement, human trafficking, torture and violence, including, and especially, sexual violence.

Women and girls have the unhappy privilege of making up the majority of refugee populations and displaced persons, and they remain at risk even in post-conflict periods, because international human rights norms and the norms of international humanitarian law, which are intended to protect them, are rarely applied to them.

But women do not have to be only victims in conflict situations; indeed, they can play a crucial role in conflict resolution and in the post-conflict reconstruction of a society. Equitable representation of women at all levels of negotiations is essential in order to bring about lasting peace and security.

The presence of women in all phases of peacekeeping missions must be visible and constant. Although they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions, women little by little have begun to participate actively in conflict resolution and in decision-making. This is an encouraging trend.

We must create the necessary conditions for them to be greater stakeholders and to encourage them to participate more actively. It is also necessary to maintain basic social services, in particular those for women and children, in post-conflict situations.

Social cohesion, which is necessary to stabilize States, must be strengthened by strengthening equality between men and women and respecting their rights. Reconstruction of democratic institutions and of political and public life in a country must go hand in hand with the participation of women in the decision-making process, for reasons of parity.

Peacekeeping forces must therefore be sensitized and trained to take into account in their missions of the specific requirements involved in the protection of women. Peacekeepers, the military, civilian police and civil servants all must be trained on gender issues. This training must be based on the Code of Conduct and on a study of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In this respect, the remarks just made by Mr. Guéhenno concerning the training of peacekeepers are encouraging. I would simply add that such peacekeeper training must be done in partnership with the troop-contributing countries.

Resolution 1325 (2000) explores ways of addressing the different experiences of women in periods of armed conflict and ways of responding to their specific needs, including the respect and promotion of their fundamental rights.

Bulgaria sees that resolution as a major achievement of the United Nations and the international community. In this spirit, the Council should envisage specific measures to protect the fundamental rights of women during armed conflicts and to ensure their adequate participation in peacekeeping activities.

The President: I should warn the Council that I intend to suspend the meeting at about 1.10 p.m. and resume at 3 p.m.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation listened carefully to the statements by Mr. Guéhenno, Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer. We appreciate the efforts that they have made in the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in peacekeeping, as well as their invaluable recommendations.

The causes and nature of armed conflicts vary in the different parts of the world. However, all have a grave impact on women. This question is increasingly the subject of concern and attention on the part of the international community. In recent years, the United Nations adopted the Beijing Declaration, the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action. Two years ago, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000). More recently, the special session of the General Assembly on women adopted a political declaration. All those initiatives demonstrate fully the determination and resolve of all States to enhance the status of women and to let woman assume their role. However, it is important to note that these declarations and resolutions have not been implemented in a full and comprehensive manner.

With regard to the issue under discussion today, it is key to address two issues. First, the rights and interests of women in armed conflict should be protected. Women should be encouraged to participate in peace negotiations and decision-making. The advantage and potential of women should be utilized in conflict prevention, reconciliation efforts and social reconstruction. Secondly, effective measures should be adopted to eliminate or reduce the tremendous harm done to women by small arms, mines, HIV/AIDS and other violent actions.

Once again, we strongly urge all parties to conflicts to abide by international humanitarian law and to respect human rights. We call upon all Governments to investigate and to punish those who have committed crimes against women. We call upon the international community to discuss the practice of double standards and to fully investigate recent events in some regions of the world that have harmed civilians. The international community should make concerted efforts to eliminate the root causes of conflicts, to alleviate poverty and to spread education, so as to protect the rights of women and children from harm in a fundamental manner.

If more women can participate in conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities, it will be possible not only to minimize the impact of conflict on women but also to promote the establishment of lasting and effective peace. This question touches upon a wide range of areas. It calls for concerted efforts by all parties. The agencies of the United Nations system should utilize their collective advantage so as to achieve the greatest results in their work. Conducting work in this area, the Security Council should fully respect the work conducted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other organs.

We support the action plan on the division of work formulated by the task force of Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality. We look forward to the publication of the integral report of the Secretary-General on the impact of gender on the peace process.

Mrs. Huree-Agarwal (Mauritius): We join others in thanking Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno, Ms. Angela King and Ms. Heyzer for their very elaborate and useful presentations. Today's discussion has enabled us to get a broader view of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution and the role of women in peace-building. This meeting is an opportunity to take into account the study carried out in collaboration with Ms. King's office, with a view to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000.

We would also like to thank all those who have contributed to making this study possible. The delegation of Mauritius is happy to see the issue of the protection of the most vulnerable members of society brought to the forefront and to see a culture of protection and prevention being developed progressively. We fully agree with the analysis of the study with regard to the systematic targeting of women and girls during armed conflicts, due to their vulnerable status in society. Statistics testify that the vast majority of victims of armed conflicts throughout the world are women and children.

Women have assumed and have been made to assume different roles during conflicts. While in some cases they have actively participated in conflicts and have fought side by side with men, in most cases they are used as human shields, sex slaves and porters during conflicts. Not only are their human rights flouted but their dignity is undermined. They have undergone untold suffering and various other miseries.

It is most unfortunate that very little has been done to alleviate their sufferings, and yet, women can play an important role in peacemaking, such as the Mano River Women's Peace Network, which is doing an excellent job in the Mano River Union countries, and the Comoros Women's Association, which organized a weapon collection programme on the

island of Anjouan during the internal conflicts. Such endeavours at the local grassroots level should be recognized and encouraged.

Through its peacekeeping missions and humanitarian organisations, the United Nations should step up efforts to work closely and in a coordinated manner with regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations to sensitize women with regard to gender-based violence, the possibilities of protection from all forms of violence and the rights of women and children. This could be done through the development of general terms of reference for gender specialists within human rights components of peacekeeping operations and through the proper training of peacekeepers on gender and women's rights issues.

In line with the Brahimi recommendations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should work closely with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues in implementing projects designed to support the work of the civilian police in the field.

We would like to highlight the historic move taken by the African Union recently in Durban towards gender equality in Africa. Accordingly, the African heads of State have endorsed a set of recommendations that calls for a 50 per cent participation of women in all African Union organs. Their initiative is commendable and should be followed by other regional groups in order to ensure the adequate representation of women's interests at all levels, including key organs dealing with the maintenance of peace and security.

Due attention should also be given to women when creating peacekeeping and post-conflict peacekeeping operations. Necessary assistance should be given to women who have suffered rape and other atrocities and to those women and girls who are willing to testify against the perpetrators of such crimes.

We also propose that programmes for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should include provisions for counselling and providing advice to women who have undergone traumas of conflict. In order to reintegrate these women in normal life, they should be fully rehabilitated and provided with the necessary assistance. In this respect, we highlight the need for women to have access to funds, the labour market and training facilities that will give them opportunities to contribute to the welfare and well-being of their families, as well as to society, in the most effective manner.

Finally, it is the view of my delegation that women can play an important role in preventing conflict, peacemaking and peace-building. We need to empower them and enhance their role so that they can make their valuable contribution to international peace and security.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Denmark. I invite her to take a seat at the Council table and to make her statement.

Ms. Løj (Denmark): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia — and the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as the EFTA country of the European Economic Area, Iceland, align themselves with this statement.

We appreciate that this important issue is once again on the agenda of the Security Council.

Resolution 1325 (2000) is a landmark resolution very much welcomed by the European Union. It has contributed significantly to the systematic inclusion of certain agenda issues in the consideration of conflict and peace efforts by the United Nations system. A solid momentum has been created, but more has to be done in order to implement the recommendations of the resolution. In this respect we look forward to the action plan on implementation foreseen by the Secretary-General in his report on the prevention of armed conflict of June 2001 (S/2001/574).

The European Union shall refrain from reiterating well-known positions on today's theme. We welcome, however, the opportunity to participate in the process of developing this new and important area by offering a few specific recommendations with regard to conflict, peacekeeping and gender.

The first suggestion that I would like to make is a revision of the existing guidelines and standard operating procedures. The Strategic Manual on Multidimensional Peacekeeping should include a chapter on gender mainstreaming. In addition, tools and mechanisms to mainstream gender in all aspects of peace operations should be developed. Proper standard operating procedures on gender should be prepared in

order to support systematic implementation and monitoring of progress. In addition, it is our view that all United Nations-mandated military operations should operate in accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin on observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law.

The second suggestion relates to organization and training. We have noted that gender offices have been established in three field missions and that they have achieved good results. We recommend that gender offices or focal points be established in all missions and that they be provided with the necessary support. In addition, proper training packages for all civilian, police and military personnel at all levels should be developed.

In the opinion of the European Union we should spare no effort to increase the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes. The European Union is concerned about the limited number of women appointed as Special Representatives or Special Envoys of the Secretary-General to peace missions. Member States and the Secretary-General should more efficiently promote the appointment of female candidates to these positions.

The European Union believes that there should be a focal point on gender issues in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to improve mainstreaming of gender issues in the entire work of the Department and to backstop the gender offices or focal points in the field missions. In addition, we believe that an increase in the number of women at decision-making levels in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs would be supportive to the advancement of gender issues in relation to peace processes.

Women are not just victims in armed conflicts. They can be combatants, prisoners, leaders, negotiators, peacemakers and peacekeepers, as well as activists. Women have the potential to play a more important role in the peacemaking and peace-building processes. There should, however, be a more systematic approach to gender mainstreaming with regard to peacemaking and peace-building.

We should, therefore, recommend that a gender perspective be integrated into any mandate and peace plan, as this will enhance the possibility of success. In this respect, allow me, Mr. President, to refer to the very constructive ideas on the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) forwarded to the Council by Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, during last week's open meeting on the Mano River. It is obvious that inclusion of such elements in mandates requires that gender experts contribute to all stages of the planning of peace operations, including mission planning and staffing.

Furthermore, it would indeed also be important to develop some practical guidelines based on lessons learned on how to include community level and non-governmental organizations in peacemaking, especially women's groups. These guidelines should also address how the full and active participation of women in the reconstruction of society and in institution-building could take place in practical terms.

As mentioned by the representative of Chile, the European Union and the Latin American countries are right now are in the process of planning a conference on women in peace operations. The conference is to take place in Chile this coming fall and aims at raising general awareness on gender dimensions in peace processes in the European Union and in the Latin American countries and at supporting the exchange of knowledge and experience on national and regional capacity-building with regard to international peace operations.

The European Union puts great emphasis on the issue of conflict, peacekeeping and gender, and we will continue to pursue our supporting policies in this regard. I hope that the practical proposals that I have offered today will help develop the Secretary-General's study in a way that will allow it to provide concrete recommendations on the way forward.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Nigeria. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Mbanefo (Nigeria): Let me congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. We recall with satisfaction your role in the Economic and Social Council, where you effectively coordinated the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in United Nations policies and programmes.

In situations of conflict, women and children constitute the vast majority of civilians adversely affected. They suffer tremendous deprivations. They are abducted, tortured and recruited as domestic and sex slaves. They become refugees and internally displaced persons. Consequently, Nigeria believes that an essential aspect of conflict prevention must include the strengthening of the rule of law, and, within that, the protection of women's rights based on gender equality through constitutional, legislative, judicial and electoral reform.

We observe that ever since the first World Conference on Women held in Mexico in 1975, there has been the recognition that women have an important role to play in the promotion of peace. Furthermore, the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women of 1998 called on Governments and international organizations to protect women in armed conflict and to support their participation in all aspects of peace support, including conflict prevention and post-conflict resolution and reconstruction. In this regard, my country's constitution ensures participation and representation of women at all levels of government, with the objective of prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

The Security Council, in its resolution 1325 (2000), recognized the negative impact of armed conflict on women and the need for effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection. The Council further recognized that the full participation of women in peace processes can contribute significantly to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. The Council therefore expressed willingness to incorporate a gender perspective into United Nations peace operations and called for measures that would ensure protection of and respect for the rights of women and children. Nigeria reiterates its support for this resolution, especially the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into peacekeeping.

It is gratifying to note that the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda made important contributions in addressing violence against women in armed conflict. Nigeria welcomes the coming into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which stipulates that acts of sexual violence are war crimes when committed within the context of armed conflict. The international community cannot afford to continue to ignore the continued exposure of women and children to the dangers of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis in situations where conflicts have devastated infrastructure needed for immunization. We should therefore live up to our Charter obligations and responsibilities with respect to compliance with international humanitarian law that ensures adequate protection for women and children. In this regard, it is necessary for the Security Council to take effective measures to alleviate the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children as well as to ensure their timely release when taken hostage.

The global commerce in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, along with landmines and unexploded ordnance, threaten the lives of women and children more than others. War affects every aspect of a child's development. Malnutrition increases due to displacement and scarcity of food. Resources for social services are diverted into the war effort, and this leads to the deterioration of health services and thus of infant and child mortality rates. The destruction of schools naturally reduces school enrolment. All these elements are common features of today's conflicts. If we are to ensure the well-being of women and children in the twenty-first century, they deserve special attention and action.

In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has taken a number of initiatives as part of a broad commitment towards enhancing the social, economic and cultural well-being of women and children. These include the establishment of a child protection unit within ECOWAS to protect and enhance the rights of women and children caught in conflict. This arrangement is in constant review to ensure adjustment as the situation demands.

The gender dimension in the peace process needs to be adequately addressed. To ensure the effectiveness of peace support operations, the principle of gender equality must permeate entire peacekeeping operations at all levels. This will guarantee the participation of men and women as equal partners in all facets of the peace process.

We commend the Secretary-General's target of 50 per cent of high-level positions to be filled by women.

We urge that a gender balance be maintained in the appointment of women and men as special envoys and special representatives, and in the pursuit of good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General, especially in matters relating to peacekeeping and peace-building. Women should also be given the opportunity to serve as coordinators in peacekeeping activities in the areas of food distribution in refugee camps. In this regard, we note that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Fund for the Development of Women (UNIFEM) have made some modest efforts by including women in their field activities. We urge them to do more.

The important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building cannot be overemphasized. Women played a significant role in the peace process in Afghanistan, especially during elections to the Loya Jirga. In West Africa, the Mano River Women's Peace Network continues to make important contributions to the peace process within the Union. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we are aware of the gender issues being negotiated by women in the inter-Congolese dialogue. We also note and commend the efforts of Palestinian and Israeli women in the Arias-formula meeting on the situation in the Middle East, in the context of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Nigeria salutes the efforts of these women.

Nigeria notes with satisfaction the contribution of the Secretary-General in monitoring the compliance with and commitment to international law by parties in conflict. We commend the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the commencement of gender-awareness training in United Nations peace missions. We welcome the increased level of cooperation between Governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society in providing education, training and humanitarian assistance to women and children. We must sustain the rehabilitation of women and children, as this will facilitate their smooth integration into society.

Finally, let us hope that these measures will impact positively on our women and children who are unfortunately caught in conflict situations.

The President: I am going to have to suspend the speakers list for lunch. But before we break, I would like to come back to Angela King and Noeleen Heyzer to see if they want to make any further comments on what they have heard so far.

Ms. King: I will return to the question of success stories and scepticism and elephants. I would like to mention that one of the goals on which the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and my office are working is to produce gender perspectives in disarmament and peacekeeping. We are working on a series of briefing notes, using methodology from my office but very much incorporating the on-the-ground and headquarters experiences of various offices. This is being done with the very strong support of the head of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and his team.

The representative of Colombia said that in December he is hoping to base discussions on gender and small arms. There is already a briefing note on gender perspectives and small arms in that kit on which, I believe, he and the Security Council could build. I think that many of the success stories and the convincing aspects that we are dealing with could be used in a kit like that, where methodologies could be presented. Much of this work is already being done. In fact, the representative of Denmark invited DPKO to include a chapter on gender mainstreaming in the standard operating procedures, and we are currently working very closely with DPKO on exactly that, with the help of some of the gender advisers from the field, particularly from East Timor, one of whom is with us today and is now part of DPKO.

The representative of Jamaica wondered just what was being done in the area of disarmament. There are a number of initiatives. UNICEF, for example, is doing its best to separate girl soldiers from adults and to involve them in retraining.

There are also — again, in the briefing note on gender perspectives, disarmament and development — two case studies. One is from Albania, showing that in programmes for exchanging weapons for development, women were extremely active. Close to 6,000 weapons and 137 tons of ammunition were collected. Women were particularly active in public information and awareness campaigns in the communities, including through rallies and training programmes.

In another example, in Cambodia, at a recent burning-of-weapons ceremony in a disarmament for development programme in Bakan district, around 90 per cent of the participants were women and children. So, hidden in a lot of the available literature are some

of these very successful and convincing stories. I know that several members of the inter-Agency group — UNHCR, UNIFEM, UNDP and others — have put together small compilations of such case studies. I believe that out of this debate perhaps a call could come for an official, comprehensive compilation that could be printed and distributed at some point.

I know that Mr. Guéhenno has already addressed the question of senior advisors, but I wanted to assure the Security Council that the registry or roster of eminent persons is now in place, under the guidance of the Deputy Secretary-General. The senior appointments group is meeting on a regular basis on this subject. I hope that more women will be appointed Special Representatives of the Secretary-General.

Other issues were brought up, such as a code of conduct for peacekeeping. That is also being updated, as are some of the policies on sexual harassment. We are currently working with DPKO to make it more user-friendly.

Ms. Heyzer: There were a number of comments to the effect that Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is the only resolution having a whole constituency. I would like to say that this constituency is our partner to make things happen on the ground. What we have tried to do is to make sure that they have a voice and that they can be visible in the implementation process.

What are some of things the Council can do to make sure that this kind of implementation makes a difference at the level of women's lives? A number of recommendations and findings will be coming out. One of these ideas is that the Council may want to look at and map out some of the responsibilities of the various actors of the United Nations system through the adoption of another resolution. The Council could also respond to the gaps that have been identified by this report. Also, new actors have emerged, such as the financial and regional organizations. We also hope that the Council will make sure that this topic — women, peace and security — will become a regular item on its agenda.

What are some of the ideas that women on the ground have raised that could be helpful in terms of peacekeeping operations to protect women and ensure their participation in the peace process? One of the ideas that have come up is to dedicate civilian policing units. This has worked in Kosovo and in East Timor. We can build up on good practices that have worked at the ground level and consider how to disseminate them.

Secondly, there is the concept of operation and mandate. We have to have a more gender-sensitive approach. The protection needs will be identified if that concept is incorporated. There has to be greater dialogue with women on the ground. Is it working or not? What are some of the good lessons that have been learned in terms of collaboration? What are some of the gaps that we still need to address? What about the whole need to address women's organizations and quick-impact projects, and to support and promote the participation of women in peace-building?

There is much that we have been able to do in partnership with civil society, but at the same time there is much to be done and a long way to go. We hope that the findings of the two studies will be a step towards making sure that we reach our journey.

The President: We will continue this afternoon, but in view of the hour, I intend, with the concurrence of members of the Council, to suspend the meeting now, until 3 p.m. sharp.

The meeting was suspended at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4589 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4589th meeting

Thursday, 25 July 2002, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Chungong
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	Colombia	Mr. Franco
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Ms. Murnaghan
	Mauritius	Mrs. Huree-Agarwal
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United States of America	Mr. Rosenblatt

Agenda

Women and peace and security.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-49680 (E)

The meeting was resumed at 3 p.m.

Mr. Karev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): First of all, we would like to thank Angela King, Noeleen Heyzer, and Jean-Marie Guéhenno for the information and observations they provided to us at our meeting today. We have found the information extremely useful for this debate.

Combating all forms of discrimination and violence against women, the situation of women in armed conflict and their involvement and participation in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction are increasingly included on the agenda of the most important universal and regional international forums. These issues are also discussed by the major bodies of the United Nations. The Security Council is no exception to this trend. On 31 October 2000, it adopted resolution 1325 (2000).

Despite the attention focused on these issues and acknowledgement of their existence, we have to say that considerable effort is still required in order to overcome their negative consequences. Unfortunately, many recommendations exist only on paper, and others are not fully implemented yet.

In this connection, we place great hopes in the inter-agency study now being prepared. The documents before us suggest that this research will contain specific practical recommendations, including with regard to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This includes improving the protection of women and girls during conflicts, increasing their participation in peace-building, and ensuring that gender issues are taken into account in various aspects of peacekeeping operations, and so forth.

It is important here to avoid overly generalized, cliched conclusions and recommendations. Drafting comprehensive approaches should not be detrimental to the solution of specific issues or problems in any given situation. If we talk about what can be done by the United Nations, we would like to express our support for the idea of establishing a senior gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We believe that the work of such a person would improve coordination on relevant issues during the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations.

At the same time, we cannot forget that measures adopted by the United Nations alone are insufficient. What is needed is that real account be taken of the specific needs of women and girls during conflict situations and that they actually participate in all phases of prevention and settlement, in addition to post-conflict peace-building. A significant contribution to solving all of these problems can be provided by civil society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), many of which have quite a lot of experience in this whole range of gender issues.

Here it would be advisable to involve not only well-known NGOs but also local women's organizations. This point was well made by Ms. Angela King in her statement. Nobody would dispute the fact that it is the vulnerable sectors of the population, such as children, women, older people, the disabled, refugees and internally displaced persons, that suffer most during crises and conflicts. But it often happens that women and girls themselves act as combatants and are active participants in hostilities. That is why excluding them from the whole process of negotiations and peace settlement, or in the establishment of post-conflict power structures, can become a kind of slow ticking bomb that could trigger further crises.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our belief that women can play an important role in conflict prevention and settlement, and in peace-building. To do that, it is necessary to ensure that they are full participants in measures taken for the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, and to ensure strengthening their role in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and settlement.

Mr. Negroponte (United States): We welcome this discussion on conflict, peacekeeping and gender. We thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for his presentation, and we thank Angela King, the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, and Noeleen Heyzer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), for their efforts to increase women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building.

As the Security Council stated in resolution 1325 (2000), "Civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict." But they also play an essential role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The United States Government is fully committed both to working to respond to the needs of women in times of conflict and to supporting the role that women play as planners, implementers and beneficiaries of peace processes. Indeed, President Bush has stated that fostering respect for women is an imperative of United States foreign policy, among goals that are "grounded in the non-negotiable demands of human dignity and reflect universal human values."

On the specific question of women and conflict, Secretary of State, Colin Powell, in a speech delivered on 8 March of this year, International Women's Day, called women the most vulnerable group when conflict erupts and social structures break down. He then said,

> "In societies torn by violence, maternal and infant mortality rates skyrocket. When the men and boys go off to fight, the women struggle to care for family members left behind and to find ways to provide for their basic necessities. For all these reasons, much of our crisis response activity is geared toward meeting the needs of female victims of conflict, and we make a point of involving the women who are on the receiving end of our assistance in the shaping and carrying out of our relief programmes."

It is clear that in any conflict, women on both sides are vulnerable. It is regrettable that my Syrian colleague has again used the Security Council to raise the impact of the conflict in the Middle East on Palestinian women, without acknowledging the impact of that conflict —in particular, dozens of homicide bombings that have taken place in the past year — on the women of Israel. As I said last night, we must be mindful of the responsibility of each and every United Nations Member State to cease providing safe haven for Palestinian groups that finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts.

Returning to the subject at hand, since resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted, the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations peacekeeping missions have made changes to take better account of gender concerns. We support these changes but agree that more progress can and should be made.

Although we know women are more likely to suffer in times of conflict, this does not mean we should view them merely as victims. We agree that there remains a lack of awareness on the part of policy and decision makers that war affects men and women differently and that women and men bring different perspectives to the peace process. We commend the commitment of Under-Secretary Guéhenno to improving the gender awareness of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to that need.

Although I know the Secretary-General and the Secretariat have worked to improve gender awareness in the United Nations, there remains work to be done. As we look at peacekeeping, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building, the Security Council, as well as regional and subregional actors, needs a systematic means of integrating women as planners, implementers and beneficiaries of our collective efforts. The Secretariat should expand the number of women appointed to positions at all levels, including high-level envoys, as well as human rights investigators and monitors.

Sustainable peace requires the involvement of women as well as men. Several examples illustrate the need to expand the participation of women in peace operations. The concern that United Nations employees may have been involved in the sexual exploitation of women in West Africa is a reminder that there should be a large number of women in peacekeeping missions and other United Nations efforts. This applies not only to West Africa, but also to Bosnia and other United Nations missions. The United Nations zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation by United Nations employees is the right way forward, and we encourage further efforts to ensure all United Nations employees are aware of the policy and that violators are punished.

Not only can female peacekeepers bring a heightened awareness of the special risks of women in conflict, but women often find it easier to express concerns to other women. We encourage DPKO to further expand the number of women as peacekeepers, civilian police and civilian members of peacekeeping missions.

Women also have a valuable role to play in conflict prevention and peacemaking. In that regard I would like to recall the instrumental contribution of the Mano River Union Women's Peace Network to generating a dialogue among the leaders of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. We all should seek the assistance of women's groups and other non-governmental organizations who contribute to so-called track two negotiations around the world.

Thank you again, Mr. President, for convening this discussion. I look forward to hearing the further comments and insights of our other colleagues.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) *(spoke in French)*: Two years ago we adopted resolution 1325 (2000). As Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Angela King and Noeleen Heyzer mentioned, its implementation is not entirely satisfactory. Some progress has been made, but the situation of women and children has not really improved. They still constitute the majority of civilian victims of armed conflict. They are still the largest group among displaced persons and refugees, and the impact of conflict on women — for example, in the transmission of AIDS — is still very serious. We await the report of the Secretary-General, about which Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer have already told us something.

However, there are some encouraging developments, as mentioned by the Cameroon delegation. For example, the Rome Treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC) recognizes that rape and other forms of sexual abuse of women are covered by the ICC and are regarded as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Another encouraging development is the creation of posts for advisors on gender-specific issues in six United Nations missions, in Afghanistan, Bosnia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, East Timor and Sierra Leone. This is an improvement, but we must note that resolution 1325 (2000) has so far been implemented only very weakly. That is why today's debate is so important, so that both members and non-members of the Security Council can make their contributions as to how to better implement the resolution and offer input to the Task Force report under preparation, as discussed by Ms. King.

I have a few questions. Several delegations, including the Ambassador of Norway, spoke of the need in DPKO to establish a specific post for gender issues. I believe there were some problems in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in that connection. Of course I know the Security Council should not get involved in ACABQ matters, but it might be useful for that Committee to reconsider the matter so that a post for a counsellor on gender issues can be set up in DPKO.

I have a question for Ms. King and Ms. Heyzer. A lot has been said about the role of women in peace processes and in the reconstruction of States after conflicts. The Mano River Union Women's Peace Network has been mentioned often. Ms. King spoke of experiences in Burundi and Somalia in that connection. Afghan women are becoming increasingly involved as well. Mr. Brahimi and Mr. Karzai spoke of the Loya Jirga, of what part women would play in that process. I ask Ms. King what her Division and the Secretariat can do to help women who want to take initiatives in peace-building and ending conflicts in their countries.

Finally, Ms. Heyzer spoke of anther study to be prepared by independent experts on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). While this is a good idea, I wondered how that study would fit in with the report of the Task Force described by Ms. King and others.

One last word. France joins the Latin American club of countries with female ministers of defense. I allow myself to say this, because it was mentioned by Chile and Colombia.

Mr. Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) *(spoke in Spanish)*: We are grateful to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Ms. Angela King and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer for their presentations.

Women and children are those most affected by armed conflicts. Women and girls are frequently the specific and deliberate target of attacks by armed groups and armies in conflicts such as those suffered in Bosnia, the Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and other countries. Attacks, violations, abuse, subjugation and murders of women have outstripped other military objectives and goals of conquest.

In conflict situations, women play very diverse roles as refugees, as heads of families, as the backbone of their communities, as peace activists and even as combatants. Nonetheless, when mechanisms for peace are designed, women and their experience and needs are ignored or little valued, and they are excluded from the formal processes of negotiation and peace-building. Women — their social perspective, their understanding of problems stemming from violence and their efforts to reconcile — can make the difference between war and peace. So that women, in particular those in societies affected by conflict, can have a voice in peace processes, it is fundamental to incorporate gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations in a much more systematic way, in conformity with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

My delegation recognizes that there have been advances in mainstreaming gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations, but we are not satisfied. The process is slow and the achievements are limited. With women's active participation, their viewpoints and their perspective, peacekeeping operations can have better mechanisms for confidence-building in the reconciliation of communities broken by hatred and rancour. It is a question of facilitating, with the active presence of women, communication between peacekeeping missions and the local population so that the international presence can truly contribute to the restoration and consolidation of peace. In short, it is a question of making peacekeeping operations more effective.

In considering the establishment or the renewal of a peacekeeping operation, we must take into account the accumulation of principles, instruments and plans formulated since the World Conference on Women, held in Mexico in 1975, including the guidelines adopted by the Security Council and by the Economic and Social Council, and the study by the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as studies undertaken by the Secretary-General and by the United Nations Development Fund for Women — studies that are about to be released.

In that regard, my delegation wishes to insist on the need to take concrete steps that are measurable in the short term, so that there can be closer cooperation on this subject among the Security Council, the General Assembly and the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council; so that gender perspectives can be incorporated in a truly systematic way into all peacekeeping operation mandates; so that verification mechanisms — preferably external — can be established to ensure that those mandates are implemented; and so that there can truly be greater participation by women in all stages and at all levels of peacekeeping operations, including those of planning, implementation and assessment. The Member States of the Organization must conduct more effective campaigns to recruit women and, above all, to present candidates for leadership and decision-making posts. There are few women who have been in charge of a United Nations peacekeeping mission. That must change, and such change depends on Member States, but also — and above all — on the Organization's being consistent in its principles and guidelines.

In that regard, I welcome the recent appointment of a woman as Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Georgia. It is fundamental that training courses for members of peacekeeping missions — as well as for staff working for those missions at Headquarters — incorporate gender perspectives. Any operation must have at least one gender expert. And it is also important that that function not always be performed by a woman, as is usually the case. Strong mechanisms should be established to investigate cases of abuse and exploitation of women by armed groups, by State authorities or by members of peacekeeping operations.

In accordance with the foregoing, full implementation of the provisions of international humanitarian law, of international human rights law and of emerging international criminal law should be promoted. Systematic and generalized attacks on the physical integrity and dignity of women — crimes whose victims are women in conflict situations — must be definitively prosecuted and punished by international law as war crimes — as crimes against humanity.

The recognition of a link among gender, conflict and peacekeeping, as reflected in resolution 1325 (2000), is only one aspect of the broad subject of mainstreaming gender perspectives, with respect to which the United Nations must demonstrate its leadership, most especially if it wishes its views to be emulated outside the Organization.

The President: I now return to the rule 37 list. The next speaker is the representative of Australia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Blazey (Australia): Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting on women, peace and security. We join other delegations in expressing appreciation for the valuable presentations. This meeting is appropriate, given that women still play a very marginal and neglected role in conflict prevention and resolution.

As we see it, two basic challenges face the international community as we address the issue of women, peace and security. The first relates to the scepticism mentioned earlier. It is the ongoing task of making it the genuinely accepted wisdom that conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building all benefit enormously from the proper application of gender perspectives. That is gradually being achieved

within the United Nations system, and it can be assisted by leadership, by the further development of focused training strategies and by the appointment of gender specialists. The more important aspect of the challenge, however, is how to incorporate gender perspectives and how to enhance the role of women in communities that are experiencing conflict or are at risk of conflict. That is where the bulk of our future work should lie if we want to see the widespread benefits of applying gender perspectives to conflict situations.

The second challenge is how to continue to transform general principles and statements of intent into meaningful and practical programmes, policies and activities in the field. Work is being done in that regard, as we have heard — particularly in newer United Nations peacekeeping missions — but very much more will be needed.

The forthcoming study of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security — which Australia has supported with a grant of $A100,000 — together with the complementary study being undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), should provide a good basis for developing strategies and approaches that have real impact.

We welcome the intention of the drafters of the Secretary-General's study to provide practical and focused recommendations. Consistent with that practical focus, we would be cautious about recommendations for more action by United Nations legislative bodies on this subject. In our view, it would be more productive to allow resolution 1325 (2000) to be regarded as the definitive statement of the Council's view on gender and security, rather than to risk diminishing the Council's coin by issuing further resolutions. The key task should be how to turn resolution 1325 (2000) into a living document of use to practitioners and to communities in conflict. The study should consider recommending how that might be achieved.

Like others, we see merit in the study's providing concrete examples of situations where the participation of women and the application of gender perspectives helped provide conditions for a cessation of hostilities and for the creation of viable, productive post-conflict communities. In Australia's region, the Bougainville peace process benefited from the active participation of women's groups, which played a vital conciliatory role in bringing warring factions together and in fostering more harmonious community relations. In the Solomon Islands, too, women played an important supportive role in the quest for peace. The study's inclusion of such examples — and, of course, of the East Timor experience — would enhance its practical value as a tool for positive change.

Thought also needs to be given to the question of how success and progress are to be assessed. In this regard, it will be necessary to carefully distinguish means from ends. For example, appointing gender specialists, while a worthwhile objective, is still primarily a means, a step towards an end, and not an end in itself. The real test is in the field: have women been more directly involved in peace processes, in conflict prevention and in peace building? Have their needs been met? Have their perspectives been valued and built into United Nations peace activities? Have their interests been taken into account in strategies which address the political economy of conflict? The careful delineation of means and ends may also assist in resolving the current difficulties over funding the senior gender adviser position in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Australia firmly supports the establishment of that position.

Finally, we would place high value on developing accountability measures to track the state of, and any progress in, bringing perpetrators of crimes against women to book and in establishing mechanisms to address cultures of impunity.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of New Zealand. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. McIvor (New Zealand): New Zealand commends the United Nations for its recognition of the linkages between gender equity and the realization of peace and security. The Security Council debate almost two years ago, resulting in resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, was a milestone. That resolution expressed concern about the adverse impact of armed conflict on women and girls as civilians, refugees and internally displaced persons. The resolution promoted the role of women in preventing conflicts and in peacemaking and advocated that a gender perspective be mainstreamed into United Nations peacekeeping operations and that there should be greater involvement of women in such operations.

New Zealand was pleased financially to support the Secretary-General's study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls that resulted from that resolution. New Zealand has participated in the group of friends of resolution 1325 (2000) and in the expert group meeting hosted by Canada to consider the best means to implement the resolution.

In our own region, we are particularly aware of the impact of armed conflict on women and of the very constructive role that women can play in the peace process and in the rebuilding of society. Earlier speakers have referred to scepticism on this issue. But we know, for example, that, as my Australian colleague has just pointed out, women were instrumental in bringing to an end the secessionist crisis from 1989 to 1998 in Bougainville. And in the Solomon Islands, women's groups recently helped develop the momentum towards peace. Women literally took to the streets calling for an end to ethnic conflict between Gwale and Malaitans.

We were impressed by the commitment of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) in East Timor. Not only did UNTAET make sure that its staff integrated gender issues into its work, it actively collected data and information about the situation of East Timorese women and ensured that East Timorese women had a say on issues of importance to them. UNTAET's report notes, however, that it is important for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) that Member States increase the number of women in the military and civilian police forces serving in peacekeeping operations. We are pleased to note that 461 women — more than 10 per cent of the total — have played an active role as part of the New Zealand peacekeeping force in East Timor.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity of this debate to underline the fundamental importance of achieving gender equity for the maintenance of peace and security and of enabling women to participate in the decision-making process.

Ms. Murnaghan (Ireland): I will start off by thanking Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno, Assistant Secretary-General Angela King and Ms. Heyzer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). My delegation concurs fully with the main findings and recommendations of their reports as highlighted this morning, and we look forward to receiving their detailed recommendations on implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The presidency of the European Union spoke earlier in this debate, and we fully subscribe to the points made. The earlier speakers have addressed many of the points that my delegation would have made. For those reasons and also given the late point at which we are intervening, I will try to shorten our intervention. But there are a few points that we would like to make.

I think that it is clear from today's discussion that there are a wealth of proposals and ideas as to how we might integrate gender perspectives into peace operations. The challenge, however, is to ensure that these recommendations and guidelines are implemented consistently throughout the system and to ensure that where the United Nations system deals with peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, the gender perspectives are taken into account as a matter of course.

My delegation would like to see the forthcoming reports identify appropriate mechanisms to ensure that gender perspectives are fully integrated into the work of all parts of the United Nations system. Those could include, for example, the proposal to establish a gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations — a proposal that we would fully support. Similar focal points should be considered for other departments, including, for example, the Department of Political Affairs, so as to systematically ensure that women are involved at every stage of peace negotiations in the planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels. Australia has just now also addressed that point. Provisions should also be made for the financing of those mechanisms, and resources should be allocated so that they can fully support gender offices in the field. In our view, any mechanisms or focal points should be based in the departments themselves at a senior enough level so as to have an impact on the decision- and policy-making of the department concerned.

With regard to the issue of follow-up monitoring, we believe that this is crucial. There should be continuous monitoring and evaluation of how different parts of the United Nations family are doing and what steps could be taken to improve the system to ensure a consistent approach.

We agree very much with UNIFEM that gender should be an integral part of all peace operations, in the same way that security, policing and so forth are also a part. Gender advisers should be deployed at the outset of peace operations, including at the planning stage — as we said a moment ago — and should be sufficiently senior to have an influence on the decision-making process. In this regard I think the very positive experience in Kosovo and East Timor and other operations which have gender units bear out the idea that gender should be an integral part of all such operations.

Last week, in drawing on the lessons learned in Sierra Leone, Ms. McAskie of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs made a number of very useful observations. One in particular, she mentioned that under the structure in Sierra Leone, humanitarian issues were centralized within the political and military decision-making of the Mission. Furthermore, she concluded that the inclusion of human rights and civilian affairs officers was an advance over previous operations. We believe that dedicated gender advisers in positions of influence in missions would be important to centralizing gender issues within the wider context of the mission.

On the related point of ensuring that gender is adequately addressed in the mandate of an operation, there would be appear to be increasing evidence that sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war. In this respect, the ruling of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia that rape and the enslavement of women can be classified as crimes against humanity brings into focus the importance of making adequate provision for gender issues in mandates. I think that in this particular regard, Ms. McAskie noted last week that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone could have been more comprehensive had it moved it beyond the norms of gender sensitivity and mainstreaming to include responses to endemic gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.

Another point that has been addressed by a number of speakers, this afternoon as well, is the issue of training. We see particularly that training is very important. It applies, of course, to staff at Headquarters and at the highest levels in the Organization, as well as to field personnel. As Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno said this morning, awareness starts at the top.

A point that has been addressed this afternoon, in particular by the United States and a number of others, is the issue of women's participation in peacekeeping operations. We believe too that an increase in the number of women participating in military, civilian and civilian aspects, including at the highest levels, would have an important effect on the atmosphere of a mission. In this regard, I would just note that Ireland has been deploying women civilian police officers and military for 20 years.

It is also important to ensure that gender issues are fully addressed in the transition from peacekeeping to peace-building, so that the promotion and equality of women's rights is integrated into the whole peace-building phase. Lessons should also be drawn in due course from the experience in East Timor and elsewhere.

Finally, just on the particular point of women as peace-builders — France has also referred to the importance of involving women in decision-making in Afghanistan as an example — we, through our own experience in the issue of the peace process in northern Ireland, have seen the importance of women as peace-builders in their own communities. It was in fact central to the development of the peace process in northern Ireland and in particular in creating conditions on the ground that facilitated the process leading to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

That Agreement, in affirming the commitment of the parties to the democratic process, explicitly underscores the right of women to full and equal participation in the political process. Australia and New Zealand both have referred to the positive experience of including women in decision-making at the national level in the Solomon Islands and in East Timor.

The President: I should perhaps note that for the first time that I can remember, there is a majority of women representing delegations in the Security Council. For a fleeting moment, there were nine representatives. I was wondering whether anybody would quickly put forward a resolution.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Motomura (Japan): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your initiative in convening this open meeting as a follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), entitled "Women and peace and security".

With the adoption of Council resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2000 and the subsequent statement by the President of the Security Council in October last year, the linkage between international peace and security and gender issues has been increasingly recognized throughout the international community. Indeed, there is a growing awareness of the negative impact that armed conflict has on women and children in particular and of the importance of women's participation in post-conflict peace processes.

On the other hand, what is now needed is more detailed information and analysis of concrete examples, as well as recommendations and practical measures. My delegation, therefore, looks forward to the results of the study conducted by Ms. Angela King, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. We also look forward to the results of the assessments by the two independent experts appointed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the impact of armed conflict on women and the role of women in peace-building, as well as the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted later this year.

The conclusions of these studies and reports will be crucial in terms of giving direction and providing concrete methodologies for the steady implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Allow me to briefly describe the basic views and concrete actions taken by my Government as regards gender mainstreaming in the area of conflicts and peacekeeping. First, I would like to draw special attention to the active role Afghan women are playing the post-conflict reconstruction of their country. As Prime Minister Koizumi stated at the international conference on reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo earlier this year, one of the highest priorities of Japan's assistance for Afghanistan's reconstruction is the empowerment of women.

Japan has thus sent an expert to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and has extended financial support for the establishment of women's centres in Afghanistan. Moreover, in February, Japan set up the Advisory Council on Assistance to Women in Afghanistan, taking into account the proposals of the Security Council, and is determined to continuously support the tremendous efforts the Afghan women themselves are making to restore peace in their country.

Secondly, with the mandates of peacekeeping operations becoming more multidimensional, it is increasingly important that women's views are integrated into their respective activities. I am pleased to note that earlier this year the Japanese Government for the first time dispatched seven women peacekeepers to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in East Timor, where they are now engaged in coordination activities in such areas as communication and translation. In addition, an increasing number of Japanese women who are United Nations staff members are working in the civilian components of peacekeeping missions. The Government of Japan will continuously strive to increase the participation of women in peace operations in various areas.

Thirdly, given the particular importance of gender mainstreaming in the field, the Japanese Government supported the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was endorsed by the General Assembly, that "the work of gender focal points should have the proper back-up in the Secretariat". In this context, my delegation hopes that, as stated in General Assembly resolution 56/293 in June this year, the Secretariat will develop and clearly explain a coherent policy on gender mainstreaming in all United Nations peacekeeping activities.

In October we will celebrate the second anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). My delegation hopes that the entire discussion at today's meeting will prove useful in the ongoing efforts to follow up the resolution and will be fully reflected in the report of the Secretary-General.

In closing, let me assure you, Mr. President, of Japan's readiness to contribute to the goals of this important resolution in cooperation with all other interested Member States.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Liechtenstein. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): This open debate is yet another expression of your personal commitment, Mr. President, as well as that of your delegation, to gender issues on the United Nations agenda. We would like to thank you for that. We are also grateful to those who have made presentations this morning, and particularly to Ms. Angela King, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

As many others, we welcomed resolution 1325 (2000) as a landmark achievement of the Security Council and believe that it has already made a significant difference in work on the ground. There is therefore good momentum, and this debate is an opportunity to move the process forward.

An approach based on participation seems crucial to us in order to advance work in the broad area of women and armed conflict. It is essential to realize that women are players and participants in armed conflicts — not merely victims — and that they must be treated as such. Their roles range from providers and heads of households to peacemakers, and, indeed, they can also be combatants and agents of violence. It is therefore obvious that women must be included in all stages of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. Women's role in post-conflict peace-building is particularly of the essence, and we continue to look forward to the establishment of a peace-building unit within the Department of Political Affairs, which could have a great impact in this respect. We remain committed to financially supporting such a peace-building unit, not least against this background.

When the necessity to include women in all these processes seems clear, the conclusion follows logically that the United Nations has to do its own part in this respect. Women must be given leadership positions, in particular as special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General. This is the best way not only to illustrate the commitment of the Organization itself, but also to bring about catalytic effect: to create awareness among the people concerned in a manner leading to the stronger involvement of women at all levels. The promise made in resolution 1325 (2000) has not yet been fulfilled. My delegation has been active on this particular issue for several years now, and again, we are very grateful for the contribution you yourself have made, Mr. President, in this respect.

Involving women as participants must go hand in hand with addressing their special needs and vulnerability. Clearly, women are more vulnerable to the effects of armed conflict than men. Very often, an already existing culture of violence and discrimination against women is exacerbated in times of armed conflict. Protection of women in such times must therefore begin during times of peace. But in addition to these systemic elements, it is also the changed and changing character of armed conflicts that puts women at special risk. The systematic and deliberate targeting of civilian populations has become a recurrent pattern in recent armed conflicts, and women are disproportionately affected by forced displacement, landmines, sexual violence and — as a particular consequence thereof — HIV/AIDS.

The full observance of international law, in particular refugee and international humanitarian law is therefore crucial. As far as the progressive development of international law is concerned, strides have been made over the past few years, in particular in the area of sexual violence, through the work of the ad hoc tribunals established by the Security Council and, of course, in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which has just entered into force. On the other hand, we have also witnessed attempts to undermine international legal standards and are therefore challenged to uphold and defend the existing gains made. Its full implementation would indeed go a long way to providing the necessary protection to women.

This debate is one more step in a long process. Resolution 1325 (2000) gives us a very solid basis to work with, and we look forward to the specific recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Special Adviser. We hope that they will be concrete and action-oriented and offer us valuable guidance, especially in the area of institutional capacity-building, which can be the starting point for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of peace operations.

The President: I thank the representative of Liechtenstein for the kind words addressed to me.

The last speaker on my list is the representative of Grenada. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada): In my 12 years at the United Nations, this is the first time that I avail myself of the opportunity to address this body. Although I have spoken many times in other United Nations forums, I do so today because the item on the Council's agenda — women, peace and security — is near and dear to my heart as I approach my fiftieth wedding anniversary.

I begin with the premise that the family is the basis of society and that good family life is inextricably intertwined with and interwoven into good national life, which by extension can promote good international life. From time immemorial, much of the peace and harmony of the human family, especially in conflict resolution therein, devolves upon the woman of the house in her natural milieu as peacemaker.

Here lies a glorious opportunity to involve women in peacemaking, peace-building and peacekeeping at the highest level, nationally and internationally. The age-old saying that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world remains only a good adage unless women are brought into the mainstream of decision-making at the highest political, educational, social, economic, cultural and other levels. Then, and only then, will the world give credence and substance to the ancient Chinese proverb that women hold up half the sky.

The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, drew up the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action. It contains 12 subject areas, 6 of which are analysed in the United Nations publication entitled "The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics". This was issued just before the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in June 2000, entitled "Women 2000: Gender, Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century". The intent was to show the progress as well as the disparities between women and men worldwide in health, human rights, political decision-making, work, education and families.

Due to time constraints, my delegation will touch briefly on three subject areas, namely, human rights, political decision-making and work. While progress has been made, we cannot fail to see that we are still a long way from attaining the proclaimed goal of women's rights as human rights, as was discussed in the Millennium Report, or of equal rights of men and women affirmed in the Charter, or of everyone, without discrimination, having the right to equal pay for equal work, as emphasized in article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Yet, gender imbalance is nowhere more noticeable than in the workplace, where on average women earn at least 30 per cent less than men for equal work. Moreover, in the home, where a woman's domestic role as spouse and mother is so vital to the well-being of society, her work is always undervalued and underpaid. Unpaid domestic work everywhere is seen as a woman's responsibility.

Is it not incongruous that more than 50 years after the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the political landscape is still dominated by men? Yet all international instruments and all national legislatures enshrine the principle of equality between men and women. Men have a responsibility therefore to help remove the patriarchal dominance in society and to allow the private virtues of women to go public. Indeed, men of quality should never feel threatened by women for equality.

Gender equality is predicated upon education of girls and boys so that they can be empowered throughout their life in today's globalizing world to enter the gender mainstream of equal opportunity. The report of the sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, published on 25 March 2002, tells how far we are from attaining this goal. Given the opportunity for education, women and girls do as well as men and boys. Some even think that women and girls do better.

In 1916, psychologist George Stratton of the University of Southern California described what he considered — what he considered, remember, not what I consider — the inherent superiority of the female brain in seeing the whole picture. Writing on feminism and psychology in *Century Magazine*, he expressed the hope that women would dispel masculine illusions when they took their rightful place in society.

Men, he said, tend to fix on cogs instead of flesh and blood. Beginning with a generous wonder at nature, men end up with fascination for the tool, the scientific instrument. They establish governments to give order to life and then end up coveting the functions of government more than life. The masculine genius for organization, Stratton said, needs women's sense of the heart of things, not the trappings.

I cannot end without recalling from Greek mythology the resourcefulness, the common sense and the power of women. In *Lysistrata*, a masterpiece of comedy written in 411 B.C., Aristophanes tells of how, during the silly and unnecessary Peloponnesian war between the city-state of Athens and Sparta, the women ended the military madness and exposed the absurdity and futility of war by seizing, first, the Acropolis, which contained the Treasury, then refusing to have intimate relations with the returning men soldiers. Taken together, their actions of seizure and sex strike brought peace and development in a century very far away and removed from the twenty-first century.

Finally, we men serve as the link between home, where lessons are first taught and learned, and the wider world, where they are applied in pursuit of peace and security. An ancient Chinese philosopher captured the contribution of women to peace and security best when he said:

> "If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

What a beautiful tribute to womanhood. And on this score, I want to greet, salute and thank Ms. Angela King and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer and, of course, Mr. Guéhenno, for their presentations today.

The President: I think that the representative of Grenada, more gracefully than anyone today, has put men in their place.

I should like to make a few points in my capacity as representative of the United Kingdom, while subscribing also to the statement made by Denmark earlier on behalf of the European Union.

I think that the three presentations that started off our debate today have given us a huge amount of stimulation, followed by a useful and very thought-provoking debate covering a wide range of issues relating to women and conflict and peacekeeping.

Conflict has changed, and so we must change. The United Kingdom recognizes the enormous value of resolution 1325 (2000) and related gender initiatives in raising the profile of gender as an issue of real relevance to conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building.

But we are concerned here today with implementation. Rather like Australia, I do not believe that the Council needs more norm-setting in this area. We need implementation.

We felt that there were two fundamental reasons for holding this debate with the objective of building on resolution 1325 (2000) and not just reiterating it.

The first was to raise the probability that impunity will be denied to, and good practice will deter, those who commit or plan to commit violence against women in an area of conflict. The adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) is, I think, illustrative and only a starting point in that area.

The second reason for this debate was to recognize and to reflect in peacekeeping practice the huge contribution which women can make to conflict prevention and negotiation and to post-conflict peace-building. I pay tribute to the United Nations as a whole for the progress it has made to date in mainstreaming gender throughout the Organization.

For example, we welcome recent indications from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' Lessons Learned Unit that the presence of women in peacekeeping operations has improved the effectiveness of those missions by improving the levels of access to the local population and increasing the range of skills, approaches and perspectives in missions.

We welcome this progress so far, but we have to recognize it for what it is — merely the start of a much wider effort. Every part of the United Nations system that engages with the broad range of issues in the resolution, from conflict prevention to post-conflict peace-building — including the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the funds and programmes — must give appropriate attention to gender perspectives.

It is now readily accepted that gender mainstreaming is a crucial strategy in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Effective management of conflict, especially its prevention is, alongside that, an aspect of the Goals' focus. Integrating gender perspectives into conflict prevention work will make the impact of that work all the more effective.

It is therefore important that Member States throughout all United Nations bodies express their political commitment to, and offer direction and guidance on, gender mainstreaming. We have seen some excellent examples of this during the recent substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, with its first consideration of gender mainstreaming under a dedicated agenda sub-item. And may I congratulate the Economic and Social Council on having adopted yesterday a resolution that takes forward gender mainstreaming in that Council and its subsidiary bodies. It is good to see the Councils match each other in these respects. The Security Council should aim, as the Economic and Social Council has done in its resolution, to identify best practice and encourage its promulgation.

I also commend the important and valuable contribution made by non-governmental organizations in this field, both in their cooperation with the United Nations and Member States and in their independent and often very courageous activities in conflict zones.

We all know that much remains to be done. We have hardly scratched the surface of the real problems on the ground in conflict areas. We hope that this meeting will help sustain and build on the momentum created by resolution 1325 (2000) and provide for further progress in this field through the ideas presented in this debate, in the response of the Secretariat and in that of the relevant agencies and Governments to those ideas.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I will now give the floor to our original speakers and ask them to pick up any remaining comments and questions to which they wish to respond.

I give the floor to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Guéhenno: Let me first say how grateful we are for this debate and for the support that has been expressed by many delegations for the efforts of the Department to mainstream gender and to strengthen the capacity of the Department to do precisely that.

This morning the Ambassador of Canada noted that I was discussing the five missions where we have made, I think, significant progress, and he wanted to know more about the other missions. I think that I have to be very candid. If we have made such progress in five missions, it is because indeed there we had senior gender advisors who could take proactive action and really move the process forward. When we do not have such advisory — and that is the case of the 10 other peacekeeping missions — what we can do is indeed much more limited. This is all the more so as there is not yet at Headquarters the senior advisor for gender mainstreaming who could make sure that the missions that have not had the benefit of gender advisors could benefit from the successes in those missions that do have them.

In those missions where we do not have such support, what we have done is to strengthen, through regional training, the capacity of our people to demonstrate the right behaviour and the right sensitivity. What we can do is to make sure that on such issues as discipline, the standards of the United Nations are upheld, that the code of conduct is interpreted in the strictest possible fashion, that disciplinary action follows when there is misconduct and that criminal prosecution follows when there is criminal conduct. All that needs to be done.

But all that, I would say, addresses just one side of the issue. I think it was the Ambassador of Colombia, this morning, who was noting that women and girls in conflict are not just victims. They can also be actors. Strengthening discipline and having a good code of conduct addresses only the victim side of the issue. It does not address the positive side of really empowering women so that we have greater success in our peace processes.

To achieve that, you need to think through, in each specific peace operation, how you are going to integrate the gender dimension. That does not come automatically, as we have heard from many speakers throughout the day. That is why it is so important not just to have the right discipline, the right code of conduct, the right gender training, but to also have in the mission, as I was saying this morning, someone at the senior level who can think through all the implications of taking into consideration the gender dimensions, so that we can be more successful.

Ms. King (Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women): There were a couple of questions from France about how my office and the Division for the Advancement of Women could help women in Afghanistan and in other areas. Following the Council's great interest in restructuring and

revitalizing peace operations — and I particularly refer to the Brahimi Report — there was a gender specialist on the first integrated management task force from my office. Strangely enough, as it turned out, the same individual is now the gender advisor in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), working directly with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG). She works very closely also with the agency gender specialist, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and all the others. Furthermore, she is putting together an integrated framework plan for the implementation of gender-sensitive policies in Afghanistan. She also works together with the inter-agency network within the Ministry of Women's Affairs and with government officials.

There are other ways, including workshops on conflict prevention, which have been held in several regions, Morocco, Ghana, Addis Ababa, and elsewhere. This is just relating to my office. But there are several other conflict-resolution and capacity-building mechanisms working throughout the system. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and others have had similar workshops. There are also workshops on building national machinery for women, which have been very useful, and on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), legal literacy, and the rights of women under peacekeeping operations.

We also celebrated the International Women's Day, which was devoted for the very first time this year to the women of Afghanistan. The representative of Mexico raised the issue of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSG), and I just want to point out that whereas there has been considerable progress since the passage of resolution 1325 (2000), we still have only one female SRSG out of about 46, and three female deputy SRSG's out of about 12. The figures may be not exact, but that is roughly the estimate. So we have quite a long way to go.

We are, moreover, particularly looking at the missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and in Georgia, because there we feel that there is a critical mass of women. In Georgia, not only is the SRSG a woman, as Mr. Guéhenno said, but so is her deputy. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo there is a deputy who is a woman, there is a general advisor at the senior level, there is also going to be shortly a woman as the head of the humanitarian pillar. The latter is a very gender-sensitive woman, and not all women are gender-sensitive. There is also a Junior Professional Officer (JPO), who is coming out of the office of the focal point for women in New York.

So it is interesting for the Council to also look at those missions where we are witnessing the beginning of critical masses of women at the top, to see if that makes a difference ultimately.

Mr. President, I want to say that I thank you very much, along with the Members of this Council, for the very interesting and rich debate we have had and for the suggestions. I wish also to thank you on behalf of the Inter-agency Task Force for rounding out and refining many of the recommendations that have been put to you, and for giving us clear guidance on where you wish us to go.

I would also like to thank the representative of China, who mentioned the inter-agency action plan for the follow-up of resolution 1325 (2000), and we certainly hope that by October we will be getting back to you on how that inter-agency action plan has been implemented.

I would just like to close by asking you to look at two areas. One is, how do you get the good intentions and the wonderful things that have been said here today to operate at ground level? And I want to bring to your attention a case in Liberia of gender perspectives on early warning. Some women saw some very unusual night activity going on in a particular part of Liberia. Because their men folk were away, they went to look to see what was going on. They witnessed the stockpiling of weapons. They immediately reported this to the Minister for Women's Affairs, who happened to be a woman. She brought the incident to the attention of the Cabinet. She was immediately silenced and told that it was none of her concern. In fact, they asked to know what were those women doing at that time of night. They concluded that these were obviously prostitutes. That was the end of the lesson, but in fact there was a weapons build-up that led to conflict.

The second area that I would really like to bring to your attention — and we have had some wonderful inclinations or premonitions from members of this Council that this would be the case — is that we have heard from Cameroon that there is a full intention in October to deal with gender issues. We have heard also

from Colombia that in December gender issues will be looked at. We would like each and every one, Mr. President, of the members of this Council to follow your good example, and others before you who have seen fit to deal with gender issues in the months under your review.

Ms. Heyzer: First of all, I would like to say a very big thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership in this area, and also a big thank you to all members of the Security Council. We appreciate all the comments that you have made on the whole area of women, peace and security, and all the support that you have given me for my work at the ground level.

We definitely welcome the opportunity to strengthen our collaboration, especially at the field level. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the progress that has been made, especially in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on the ground. In fact, our experience has been that DPKO, in the areas where it has gender advisors, has been able to leverage the support of women by drawing on the strength of UNIFEM. Therefore, a very good example has been in East Timor, where we both participated in the training of women, and got women elected on a platform to deal with violence against women, and also of support to the police in order to protect women. So we were extremely pleased with that kind of work at the ground level.

This discussion has been an excellent basis for the preparation of our October session, and the report of the Secretary-General and the independent assessments will touch on many new areas of action that have been identified. There is a huge expectation. As many Council members have noted, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is a living document, something women will pay attention to and build upon.

The women's movement has celebrated the kind of thoughtfulness and receptivity the Security Council has given to this whole area of work. I will be in touch with them to convey the messages discussed here. We look forward to many of the initiatives discussed by Chile and Colombia on small arms. I also would like to share with you the fact that the Minister for Women's Affairs from Afghanistan will be here tomorrow to visit us, and there will be a signing of a memorandum of understanding with UNIFEM. The leadership of Afghan women shows strongly how the United Nations system has been working together.

A specific strength of UNIFEM is working with women to prepare them for the peace table and train them to participate in the reconstruction of their countries. This is true from the Congo to the Manu River. The strength of the Women's Fund is in building women's capacity and the different kinds of leadership that will bring women to the peace table. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM was very central to pulling together an agenda on women that was discussed at the Loya Jirga.

I would like to stress the link between the Secretary-General's report and the independent assessment. There is a division of labour between Ms. King and the work of UNIFEM. All of us participate in Ms. King's inter-agency task force. The division of labour is such that the independent expert assessment captures the voices of women at the ground level, and also the work in new areas that would not be captured by a desk review. That is the connection, but we hope both studies will become part of the Secretary-General's report.

I would like to end by saying UNIFEM is a small fund, but we have invested $14 million in the area of women, peace and security. This investment has gone into four areas of work. One is early warning and prevention, using women's groups on the ground to help us. The second area is protection and assistance, in strong partnership with different agencies such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, UNICEF and women's groups. The third and largest area of women's work and the work of UNIFEM has been in the area of peace-building, getting women from the ground and communities to the peace table. The fourth is gender justice, especially in post-conflict peace-building. As we move forward, we all realize that this area is actually the first step. We look forward to a long-term partnership with the members of the Security Council, so that implementation will make the kind of transformation necessary to ensure peace and security in women's lives.

The President: I thank Ms. Heyzer very much for those final remarks and for her enthusiastic participation with us today in an important event for the whole gender issue.

Let me sum up briefly some points we will put in writing as a consequence of this debate, on the responsibility of the presidency.

I think it has been a rich and timely debate and I hope it will assist the Secretariat in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report, which we look forward to in October. There is a great deal there, much of which you already thought of. But in order to get the Security Council on board, this is an important set of guidance for you. I warmly thank all those who participated, especially those who did not just come today to make a national statement, but to interact with other speakers, pick up ideas and move them forward.

The salient points I think we should bear as a Security Council emerge as the following.

First, there is a need to ensure the integration of gender perspective throughout the United Nations, both in the field and at Headquarters. Second is a need to ensure that all peacekeeping mandates, peace agreements and informal understandings include a relevant gender perspective. Third is the importance of involving women at all stages and all levels in peacekeeping operations, peace processes, humanitarian operations and post-conflict reconstruction. Liechtenstein brought out most clearly the message that participation in itself is a very important part of addressing gender.

Fourthly, there is the importance of gender training for United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The European Union statement pointed to the revision of existing guidelines and standard operating procedures, but there is a DPKO manual which addresses these points which should be kept up to date, implemented and therefore read and understood by all those take part in peacekeeping operations. Fifth — I think all those who mentioned it were unanimous — is the importance of the appointment of a senior gender adviser in DPKO. Norway, the Russian Federation and many others pointed to this.

Sixthly, we must ensure that women are fully included in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes. We have not yet sufficiently sorted out DDR in the Council, and there is a gender element to that which is very important. Seventh, we need to ensure that all peacekeeping operations include professional gender advisers and that they consult with community leaders, local NGOs, and wider sections of the community, including experienced women peacemakers and women's groups. In that context Canada made an important point. When SRSGs and representatives of peacekeeping operations come to the Council, they should be addressed and questioned on the area of gender perspective in their operations. As Canada said, specificity is credibility. That is an important message.

Next, there is the desirability of drawing up codes of conduct governing the behaviour of peacekeeping personnel, including provisions to ensure the safety and dignity of women and girls. Additionally, the desirability, in itself, of more female SRSGs, and then the potential usefulness of the establishment in the Secretariat of a centralized database of gender specialists and experienced women peacemakers. This is not mentioned often, but I think we should pick up on that. Perhaps the Secretariat could think about it further. Nobody mentioned Security Council missions, but we do meet with gender groups when we go on missions, and I think that should be a natural part of a mission, to ensure that gender issues are fully taken into consideration.

Finally, do not forget that regional organizations can play their own role in all of this. Nigeria mentioned ECOWAS specifically in this respect, and ECOWAS has thought about this. But I think all regional organizations in the peacekeeping and peace and security context should be aware of the need for a gender perspective.

My final word is on men. If, in the Security Council's perception, it were the case that men were the victims of bad treatment because of their gender, then we would take up their issue. This is not a discriminatory exercise. It is because women are victims because of their gender that we are taking up this issue in the context of conflict. If men deserve the same treatment, they will get it from the Security Council.

We will, as I mentioned, issue a note to sum up where I think we got to in this debate.

I understand the representative of Syria would like to make some final remarks.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to express our great satisfaction at the manner in which you have presided over this meeting, as well as for the final remarks you just made and the accurate summation you gave of this meeting's deliberations, a meeting we described as very important at the very beginning of our first statement.

I should like to comment briefly on the statement made by Ambassador Negroponte with regard to my statement this morning, in which I took up the suffering of Syrian and Palestinian women under Israeli occupation. The entire world — and in particular people who have suffered occupation — is familiar with the suffering of women, especially under occupation. We have always hoped that armed women would not participate with the Israeli Defence Forces in acts of repression against Arab women under occupation. Nevertheless, I should like to stress that there can be no comparison between an occupying Power and a people languishing under occupation, enduring occupation and fighting to rid itself of occupation.

The entire world knows that Syria — for well-known historical and geographic reasons and because of the expulsion of large numbers of Palestinians — has had to host many Palestinian refugees since 1948. Those Palestinian refugees, like all other human beings in the world, have the right to express their views, to have their own aspirations and to return to the land where they once lived but from which they were expelled. I believe that is clearly stated in United Nations resolutions. We in Syria have stressed, and we now reiterate, that the groups in Syria are not armed. There are information officers in Syria, not training camps. There are camps of refugees who have been uprooted from their land by Israel and whose return Israel refuses to allow, as it refuses to comply with General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

With regard to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and the responsibility of States — in particular Security Council members — you know full well, Mr. President, as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, that Syria was one of the first countries to respond to that resolution. It is the duty of Council members to defend international peace and security. We believe that it is a fundamental responsibility of those members — in particular the permanent five — to ensure the implementation of Council resolutions. No one denies that 28 resolutions adopted by the Council concern one of the parties that I mentioned in my statement: the aggressor party that has refused to heed any of those 28 resolutions. In no way can that aggressor be compared to the victim.

Furthermore, if they really want peace and security to prevail in the Middle East region and truly want a better life for all women in the Middle East, all United Nations Member States, including Security Council members and in particular permanent members of the Council — and here, I would stress Ambassador Negroponte's statement — have the duty not to provide weapons of destruction to Israel, especially the sophisticated weapons used by Israel to kill innocent people, and they ought not to provide to Israel hundreds of millions of dollars that are then used to carry out occupation.

I do not believe, Mr. President, that I departed from the agenda item.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the United States.

Mr. Rosenblatt (United States): I regret that this meeting should end on a note of discord. Let me just say that I certainly agree with what was just said about the importance and usefulness of this meeting. But I must also say that we stand by the observation that Ambassador Negroponte made earlier concerning the lack of balance in addressing the effect on women of one particular conflict, along with the statement of concern regarding what is in fact a case of non-implementation, on the part of one Government represented here, of provisions of an important Security Council resolution: resolution 1373 (2001).

The President: There are no further speakers left on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

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Security Council

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Official communiqué of the 4590th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 29 July 2002, at 10.30 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 4590th meeting, held in private on 29 July 2002, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in Georgia'.

"In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, the President invited the Minister of Special Affairs of Georgia.

"The members of the Council and the Minister of Special Affairs of Georgia had a constructive discussion."

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United Nations S/PV.4591

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4591st meeting

Monday, 29 July 2002, 12.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Ekorong A Dong
	China	Mr. Jiang Jiang
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Kavanagh
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Mexico	Ms. Lajous
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Singapore	Ms. Lee
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/742).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-50063 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/742)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Georgia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the Minister for Special Affairs of Georgia, His Excellency Mr. Malkhaz Kakabadze, and invite him to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, contained in document S/2002/742. Members also have document S/2002/845, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1427 (2002).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4592

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4592nd meeting

Tuesday, 30 July 2002, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Tidjani
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Colombia	Mr. Rivas
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Kavanagh
	Mauritius	Mr. Jingree
	Mexico	Ms. Lajous
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Singapore	Mr. Yap
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2002/779)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-50119 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2002/779)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Albania, Denmark, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Čović, Deputy Prime Minister of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia and President of the Coordination Centre of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Čović (Yugoslavia) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. Nesho (Albania), Ms. Løj (Denmark) and Mr. Nikolov (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Michael Steiner, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Steiner to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2002/779, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Michael Steiner, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission. I now give the floor to Mr. Steiner.

Mr. Steiner: The last time I addressed the Council, it endorsed the benchmarks as the international community's yardstick for progress in Kosovo. Since then, Kosovo' provisional institutions have embraced the benchmarks as internal goals and ends in themselves. You have seen the extensive report by the Secretary-General. This report shows that there are still difficulties, but there is also substantial progress. Here is where we stand on the benchmarks.

With regard to building functioning democratic institutions, we finally have in place a multi-ethnic Government with ten ministries and with Serb participation. Last Friday, I promulgated the first law of the Assembly on pensions. Preparations for the second municipal elections are on track. Kosovo's institutions are taking shape. Kosovars can be proud. But the most difficult stage, namely creating a functioning administration and a political culture suited to self-government, is just beginning.

We have always said that there would be mistakes in the beginning. The Assembly overstepped its competence with its resolution on the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which I had to declare null and void. This has been dealt with.

I have urged the institutions to focus on the urgent tasks within their competence, including health, environment and public services. The pace at which the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) transfers further authority to the provisional institutions depends on their readiness to assume real responsibilities. Transfer of power is about

the internationals being able to let go and about the Kosovars assuming responsibility for day-to-day life.

On fighting crime our policy is zero-tolerance for crime and corruption. We are cracking down on organized crime. UNMIK police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) have conducted several successful anti-smuggling operations, confiscating large quantities of cigarettes, fuel and alcohol. To expand our efforts to fight corruption, a financial inspection unit, consisting of a highly flexible, crack team from Italy's Guardia di Finanza, will now be created within UNMIK. The people of Kosovo themselves are tired of lawlessness.

When I first arrived in Kosovo, in February, thousands of Kosovars were demonstrating against the arrest of three former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Windows were smashed and people were injured. In the last six weeks, UNMIK police have arrested 14 Kosovar Albanian men for murder, unlawful detention and torture. Again, those arrested included ex-KLA members. This time, some of them were rather prominent. And again, some Kosovars chose to express their opposition in the streets. But this demonstration gained only marginal support, and after an hour the police commissioner sent me a message: "Demonstration peaceful. Demonstration over."

With regard to Mitrovica we have been working hard to establish UNMIK authority in northern Mitrovica. Belgrade has said it agrees with me that there can be no petition, no mono-ethnicity and no parallel structures. But on the ground, we are not there yet. The core of our strategy is effective policing with full support from Commander of the Kosovo Force (KFOR), General Marcel Valentin. UNMIK police are an established force and carry out regular policing in northern Mitrovica. Soon, the Kosovo Police Service will also be there.

In the north, we have received more applications from Serbs to join the KPS than we have posts. Progress in Mitrovica depends on replacing parallel structures with legitimate institutions. Belgrade must discontinue its financing of the parallel structures, including the "Bridge Gang". We, UNMIK police and KFOR, are "watching the bridge".

It is good that Belgrade has called on Kosovo Serb judges and prosecutors to leave the parallel courts and to apply to join the regular courts. There are now sufficient applications, and the applicants will be screened individually and selected just like all other candidates. To encourage Kosovo Serbs to participate in local Government, we will bring the Government closer to the people. Our approach on decentralization would delegate competence and budget authority to local communities. But the condition is political participation in the municipality itself.

In the economic sphere, we are working on a new deal for Mitrovica. But business and investments will not come into the gray zone of illegal parallel structures. So first, these have to go.

On the economy, as a whole, we have made significant progress. But we took a serious hit ten days ago. There was a disastrous fire in one of the two main power plants in Kosovo, caused by a high intensity bolt of lightning. The situation was quite dramatic. I quote from the police report: "The fire forced a number of workers onto the roof, where they were trapped. The firemen's ladder was unable at first to reach the persons on the roof, as their ladders extend only to 30 meters, and the roof was higher." The workers were saved by the ingenuity of the fire brigade. We have lost more than half of our power capacity with a single stroke of lightning. There was no arson, and the alleged TNT was, as KFOR discovered, simple builders' putty. But if the police report identifies mismanagement or serious negligence, I will hold those responsible accountable.

As a result, there are now and will be power shortages. Together with the Kosovars we will manage, through a number of measures. But the real problem will come this winter. For this, we need to prepare now.

A strong economy is not only powered by energy but also by a solid set of institutions and rules and indeed respect for these rules. We have established a framework for privatization. The Kosovo Trust Agency is in place, thanks to the support of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as the European Union and the World Bank. The Board had its inaugural meeting last week. Preparatory work is now necessary to enable the Agency to establish clear property ownership, facilitate and protect new investments, and put idle assets into productive use.

But to seize the opportunities presented by privatization and to regenerate the economy, we need to find a way to replace declining donor funding. Kosovo's economy is still far from being self-sustaining. I will need your help to find a way to gain

access to credit. This will require political support to develop procedures, to conclude international loan and guarantee agreements, taking into account Kosovo's special status.

We cannot have it both ways. If aid is decreasing, Kosovo must have access to the international financial institutions. Otherwise, the 57% unemployment rate will force the young, the future of Kosovo, to emigrate.

With regard to the returns there is no denying that the returns process has been too slow. And it is a disgrace that in 2002 we still have enclaves in Europe.

But this year we have reversed the trend on returns. The number of minority returns now exceeds outflow. The figures of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicate that approximately 1,000 people returned in the first six months of 2002, while 268 left. The number of returnees is not large, but it indicates that the climate is improving.

KFOR has been able to remove fixed checkpoints. Serbian can be heard in the streets of Pristina. Political support for returns is also growing, although in some municipalities it still needs to be improved. Both the Kosovo Assembly and the Association of Municipal Assemblies have issued resolutions demanding freedom of movement and unconditional return.

Let me quote Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi:

> "My goal is to integrate Serb enclaves that have been physically isolated until now. We will try to integrate them, to offer them a role in all Government institutions, but also on the level of the economy, in enterprises and employment."

We now have the right structures in place. Milorad Todorovic has taken up the position of Inter-Ministerial Coordinator for Returns in the Government. Another Kosovo Serb, Nenad Radosavljevic, is my Special Adviser on Returns. Both the UNMIK Office for Return and the Housing and Property Directorate will now have new, dynamic directors. Property is key. With this fresh start, the Housing and Property Directorate needs proper funding.

Our concept for returns is based on the choice of individuals to return to their own homes and to stay. Success on returns is measured not by how many return, but by making return a genuine option. A genuine option means safety and the ability to move freely. It means a place to live, a job and equal access to basic services and public utilities. It means the ability to repossess property. It is our job to help create those preconditions. How many return, then, depends on the displaced persons themselves. So it is not about numbers; it is about a real choice.

For example, in partnership with UNHCR, we have just finalized a comprehensive package for 500 people to return in Peje/Pec. Italy has funded the project, worth 3.5 million euros. Exploiting other, similar opportunities requires resources. I will distribute a map and an organizational chart which shows where we go on returns. The more successful we are, the greater the needs will be. Return costs money. We have 30 other projects that are ready to go, and many more to come.

Kosovo must look beyond its boundaries and borders. I have visited all of the neighbours to establish pragmatic relations. Kosovans will now be able to drive to all of them with the Kosovo license plates. They require visas for none of them. They are getting driving licenses that fulfil all European standards and can be used abroad.

Progress on many of the issues that matter to Kosovans requires intensive dialogue with Belgrade. Kosovo's political leaders have yet to participate in this dialogue. The normalization of relations is a key benchmark. On the other hand, we look to Belgrade to support UNMIK's policies in words and deeds. Parallel structures have to go.

Our message is "standards before status". Kosovo has not yet achieved the standards that either the international community or its own people demand, but we can see progress. The benchmarks allow me to measure that progress, to transfer power and to decide, when the time is right, to begin the process to determine Kosovo's future status, in line with paragraph 11 (e) of resolution 1244 (1999). While we cannot say now what shape that future status will be, we can say what it will not be. There will be no partition, no cantonization and no return to the status quo ante of 1999. The outcome cannot be mono-ethnic but must be multi-ethnic. It must be a democratic, safe and respectable Kosovo on the way to Europe.

Progress towards this vision of Kosovo is not guaranteed. There are still many obstacles to overcome. But together with the Kosovo institutions, with the

Kosovans and with the Security Council behind us, I believe it is possible.

The President: I shall now give the floor to Mr. Nebojša Čović, Deputy Prime Minister of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia and President of the Coordination Centre of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija.

Mr. Čović (Yugoslavia) (*spoke in Serbian; interpretation provided by the delegation*): It is a pleasure to address the Council today and to emphasize the improvements that we have made in solving various problems in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Kosovo and Metohija multi-ethnic Assembly has been formed and the Government has been elected, while members of the Serbian national community have been appointed to the positions of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, Special Adviser in the Office for Return and Communities of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as well as the Inter-Ministerial Coordinator for Returns in the Office of the Premier of Kosovo and Metohija.

Furthermore, an agreement on appointing judges and public prosecutors has been reached, the memorandum of understanding on police cooperation has been signed, as well as the Technical Agreement between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and Serbian Railways, and the Protocol on the Movement of Registered Vehicles. With the goal of making an honest dialogue possible, the Serbian side responded positively in the exchange of cultural treasures by handing over the 6,000 year old figurine, the "Goddess on the Throne", to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

UNMIK and KFOR operations take place in very complex circumstances, which is precisely why their efforts and results deserve particular praise and respect. I would like to emphasize that the exceptional level of cooperation with Mr. Steiner, to whom I continue to give my full support, is contributing to the process of building confidence and mutual understanding between UNMIK and KFOR, on the one side, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia on the other.

The process of cooperation is slowly moving forward, but there are many things that still need to be done in order to create the conditions for building civil society in Kosovo and Metohija. Its full democratization necessitates not only time but also the support of the international community and of all the progressive forces within Kosovo and Metohija, along with full cooperation with the democratic leadership in Belgrade.

Our principles are unambiguous: to build a multi-ethnic society in Kosovo and Metohija with the full respect for and implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), the Constitutional Framework and the common documents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK. The Serbian and the Albanian people, despite their changing roles in the past, must achieve reconciliation and make an effort to create and sustain conditions for the implementation of multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional principles.

The reality in Kosovo and Metohia obliges me to share with you some very disturbing facts: the deployed international peacekeeping forces, members of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) and the United Nations administration in Kosovo and Metohia are still incapable of preventing the violations of basic human rights. The remaining non-Albanian population and the few returnees to Kosovo and Metohia continue to be subjected to terror, murders and robberies on a daily basis.

Let me remind the Council of my exposé of 24 April 2002, in this very place, when I presented to you the Principles of the Programme for the Return of Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo and Metohia. On 25 May 2002, the UNMIK administration produced their Concept of Rights to Sustainable Return. Both documents are based on the conviction that return is a voluntary act; that everybody has the right to return to his or her home across Kosovo and Metohia; that return also has to begin in urban areas; that the provisional institutions of the local self-government must direct considerable budgetary funds towards return and reintegration; and, above all, that return has to be made sustainable by the fulfilment of basic preconditions of personal and professional safety, freedom of movement and realization of property rights. Despite the indisputable uniformity of principles and goals that were presented in both documents, the process of return unfortunately remains more of a dead letter in writing than an action realized in the field.

It has been three years since the massive expulsion of Serbs and other non-Albanian

populations — 280,000 people — from Kosovo and Metohia, and this process has in smaller proportions continued up to the present day. The patience of the displaced persons has been exhausted, which is why the realization of planned and organized return must be handled in a determined manner, without denying the right of individual return, either.

The report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) quotes the numbers of displaced persons who have returned to the area of Kosovo and Metohia in the period from 2000 to 2002 as: 2,888 Serbs, 384 Romas, 769 Egyptians, 74 Bosniaks, 31 Gorans and 59 Albanians, which makes a total of 4,205 individuals. What the report fails to show is how many returnees came back to central Serbia and Montenegro after they were unable to get their previously held jobs. There are no Serbs left in public services, industry, agricultural farms or the electric power supply system, which is currently also suffering the consequences of an accident in mid-July in the Thermoelectric Power Plant Kosovo B. By and large, those were the cases of spontaneous return to the predominantly Serbian communities, and in most of these cases the participation of the international community was reduced to the mere organization of escort and transport services.

According to the report by our Commission for Refugees, during the year 2001 the Commission received 10,000 new applications for ID cards for internally displaced persons, and the same trend has continued in this year, which means that even with the return of a limited number of Serbs, their expulsion from Kosovo and Metohia continues.

If we do not most urgently grasp the seriousness of this moment, as well as the difficult situation and vital conditions of the displaced persons, and if we fail to take decisive measures towards fulfilling the programme for their return, the international community will have to bear the heavy responsibility for neglecting basic human rights.

The fact of the matter is that the Serbs have become a minority in one part of their territory and that they are deprived of their basic human rights in Kosovo and Metohija. Nobody disputes the right of the States in the region to look after their communities in the neighbouring countries, but at the same time our country is deprived of that right in part of its own territory.

Examining the destinies of abducted and missing persons, the Coordination Centre has collected eyewitness accounts and information on over 250 kidnappers, who would be able to shed light on the destiny of 74 abducted citizens. This information has been submitted on more than one occasion to the international security forces and the investigators of the Hague Tribunal, but up to now no action has been taken and no kidnappers have been arrested.

True international reconciliation will be possible only if and when all criminal suspects, regardless of their nationality or current position, are brought to justice. We owe this both to the innocent victims and to the coming generations, who ought to be stepping into the future without a heavy burden from the past.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has taken initial steps towards fulfilling its obligations related to this matter. So far, we have initiated court proceedings against a number of individuals charged with crimes and violence committed in Kosovo and Metohia, or against Kosmet Albanians since 1999. A number of those individuals are now serving prison sentences. This process will continue under all circumstances, but we are also inviting the authorities in Kosovo and Metohia to fulfil their obligations in this respect.

Furthermore, it is necessary to respect the deadline of 31 December 2002 to investigate all the graves in Kosovo and Metohia and resolve the destiny of 4,000 missing persons from all communities.

In order to create the necessary conditions for a multi-ethnic Kosovo and Metohia, the international community has to show the same degree of determination as it did in the implementation of the Ohrid Agreement in Macedonia, and to implement all the pressure mechanisms at its disposal. This would guarantee the actual implementation of principles of impartiality and equality before the law, equal employment in public services and State enterprises, and the right to receive business development funds.

Economic aid from the international community is often not to be found in the right place and at the right time. An economic revival of production and exchange and new employment opportunities, as well as the stimulation and engagement of the experts who used to live in this area, rather then the employment of foreign workers, would be an additional guarantee for the multi-ethnic character of Kosovo and Metohia.

Experts and analysts may discuss the future status of Kosovo and Metohia as well as its degree of autonomy, but politicians should take into consideration the stability of the region and should reach the decision on the final status only after a truly multi-ethnic society has been established in Kosovo and Metohia.

The pacification of the region of Kosovo and Metohia will be in vain if mountain passes in Kosovo and Metohia continue to be used as passageways for new supplies of modern and sophisticated weaponry. One of our priorities is compliance with paragraph 2 of chapter 8 of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo and Metohia, which stipulates that the international peacekeeping troops should exercise their duties in monitoring the border, regulating arms possession and providing public law and order.

The way we understand demilitarization, and the way we believe the international community understands it, does not imply that new national armies ought to be created in the region. The existing Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) should completely and fully adjust their functions to their stipulated duties. If it is possible for the members of the former warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate today in joint peacekeeping operations in the world, then it should be possible in our case as well. We will approach this goal much faster if we are given a chance to cooperate on security issues through the Partnership for Peace programme and other forms of security liaisons in South-Eastern Europe.

In the area of individual and property security, police task forces must reflect the composition and distribution of the population in the municipalities, and there must be equal representation in courts.

What are seen as parallel structures in Kosovska Mitrovica should be carefully re-examined. Equal attention should be devoted to electing the city's administration, and measures should be taken to open up prospects for coexistence in that environment.

During migrations, Serbs have always gravitated towards urban centres, which is why Kosovska Mitrovica is so important to them. In those few cities which are still inhabited by the Serbs, the latter occupy only a few buildings, in which children play behind locked doors, since the streets are too dangerous for them.

Kosovska Mitrovica, which is central in terms of education, health services and economic links with other parts of Serbia, is therefore of vital importance for their survival. The local population of Mitrovica should assume responsibility in areas in which language and religious beliefs may present an obstacle, such as local self-government, health services and education. This is not an attempt to divide a city. Local communities in other parts of the world have similar rights and obligations.

The local population of Mitrovica should also assume responsibility for its own safety. Taking into consideration our contacts with the representatives of the Institute of Peace and of the International Crisis Group, as well as my active dialogue with Mr. Steiner, we believe that the main prerequisite for the process of integration to take place in a positive climate is the inclusion of bridge watchers in the Kosovo Police Service, once they have completed the necessary tests and training. Let me quote the following statement:

> "Except for passers-by and busy citizens of Kosovska Mitrovica, the majority of people on the bridge used to be homeless beggars. When I was studying for one of my last exams at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, my mother would tell me: 'Keep studying, my son, so that you do not end up on the bridge.' Today, I am one of the bridge watchers."

This is but one of many statements.

There is deep distrust between the Serbian and Albanian people today. However, they must ask themselves whether the differences between them are unbridgeable and whether joint actions can be taken in the context of an economically backward society.

These questions are of particular importance at this time, when local elections in Kosovo and Metohija are approaching. In these elections, Albanians should demonstrate that their goal is a tolerant society and safe coexistence among all ethnic communities. I expect the international community to exercise its right to dispute the participation in the elections of those parties without a clearly defined democratic orientation.

In the field of information, it is necessary to give minorities a presence in public electronic media, and not only in certain special programmes. Paragraph 4 of chapter 5 of the Constitutional Framework, on the prevention of defamation and hate speech in the

Kosovo media, should be respected. This is vital in view of the forthcoming elections.

Political and security stability in Kosovo and Metohija requires the formation of stable institutions. The establishment and strengthening of local democracy is a precondition for the accomplishment of that goal. The decentralization of power, which is now centralized in Kosovo and Metohija at the level of UNMIK — i.e., the creation of conditions for building the institutions of local, communal and regional self-government — is an issue of vital importance. The process of the transfer of power, taking into consideration all the relevant documents, and, above all, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), the Constitutional Framework for provisional self-government in Kosovo and Metohija, and the joint document between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK, will promote general and local democratization, as well as raise general awareness of individual and communal responsibilities.

In order to accomplish decentralization efficiently, it is necessary to provide convincing security, political, economic and cultural guarantees for the Serbs, the Albanians and the other national communities in Kosovo and Metohija.

Let me briefly add that the Council has at its disposal an addendum to my presentation entitled "Construction and Development of Local Self-Government in Kosovo and Metohija", contained in Attachment 1.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria) (*spoke in French*): First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I should like to thank you, Sir, for having convened this meeting. I welcome Deputy Minister Čović and Mr. Michael Steiner to the Council, and I think that they have given us valuable input for our debate. I have to say that their statements have given us grounds for optimism, in that we can see that there is greater cooperation between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Serbian Government.

As a country associated with the European Union, Bulgaria fully associates itself with the statement that will be made shortly by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the Union, and so I shall confine myself to a few comments in my national capacity.

Bulgaria welcomes the developments in Kosovo that have strengthened regional security and stability. The final establishment of the provisional self-government institutions and the fact that they have actually begun their activities, including the adoption of a programme of work, are successes that should help to resolve the practical problems faced by all the inhabitants of the province.

Bulgaria welcomes the work of the Special Representative aimed at better coordinating the activities of UNMIK and the province's provisional institutions. That cooperation is particularly important, because it can lead to positive, tangible results in all aspects of social life, on the basis of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and of the Constitutional Framework.

The measures taken in the economic area are very important because they can help to improve the economic situation in the province, and particularly in reducing unemployment — the real scourge of Kosovo.

Privatization must be carried out in a transparent manner, enabling the international community to follow it closely, so as to make sure that the interests of all participants are protected, as well as those of creditors.

Bulgaria welcomes UNMIK's determination to take effective action in the areas of security, the combat against terrorism and organized crime, and in affirming the primacy of the rule of law. What Mr. Steiner said in this respect was very eloquent, and we would like to thank him for the energetic manner in which he is combating organized crime.

We note the important achievements in this area, such as the arrest of former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) accused of war crimes and of torturing some of their fellow citizens in Kosovo, as well as the start of the process of prosecution and trials related to terrorist activities.

Setting up an effective judiciary is the keystone for the smooth functioning of authority, good governance and socio-political life in Kosovo. The building of local capacities for law and order — joint, specialized and multi-ethnic police services to be monitored by UNMIK — is of paramount importance. This would strengthen the confidence of citizens of all communities in the judiciary and in law and order.

Strengthening the police force and the judiciary will require the support of the international community and a growing awareness among the people of Kosovo

that only respect for law and order can bring normalcy to the province.

We therefore welcome Mr. Steiner's news about the Italian Guardia di Finanza in Kosovo, which has a long tradition and is an excellent instrument for achieving the rule of law. In view of the improved climate Bulgaria continues to stress the need to complete the investigation into the cruel murder of Valentin Krumov, a Bulgarian citizen, in 2000 and the arrest of those responsible for the attack.

We welcome the cooperation between UNMIK and the Belgrade and Skopje authorities, which helps in resolving the practical problems in Kosovo, including the fight against terrorism, organized crime and the creation of opportunities to establish normal economic relations. We believe that the development and the adoption of standardized regulations governing international communication, with the powers of the provisional authorities clearly defined, acceptable to all the parties involved will contribute to avoiding unwanted international misunderstandings. Resolving this matter is very important to ensuring freedom of movement for Kosovar citizens outside the region and to ensuring that neighbouring States honour their international commitments.

In conclusion, Bulgaria believes that important progress has been made in Kosovo recently. Yet, despite the positive developments — and Deputy Prime Minister Čović and Mr. Steiner spoke about that — we are still far from the time when the complete devolution of powers by the international community to the Kosovars themselves can be completed. Much remains to be done to achieve the benchmarks elaborated by Mr. Steiner. The accelerated return of refugees is a precondition for reaching that stage.

I listened with great interest to the conclusions set out by Mr. Steiner in his statement. I think we all agree that the future of Kosovo must be multi-ethnic. To that end, it is very important that all the inhabitants of Kosovo feel at home there.

Mr. Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation wishes to welcome Mr. Nebojsa Čović, Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Head of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbia Coordinating Centre for Kosovo and Metohija. We thank him for the detailed information he has provided on the situation in Kosovo and the state of cooperation with Mr. Steiner. My delegation would also like to thank Mr. Steiner, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his detailed comprehensive briefing to the Security Council on the latest developments in the situation in its various aspects in Kosovo. My delegation also welcomes the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK).

We also welcome the positive developments that have taken place recently in Kosovo, particularly the setting up of a Government that includes representatives of the Coalition for Serb Returnees to Kosovo and its swearing in. We believe these are positive results that represent significant progress made since the information we had received in Mr. Steiner's statement of 24 April 2002.

Allow me to commend the activities of UNMIK, particularly the fact that it continues to cooperate with the interim administration to transfer authority according to the benchmarks set by Mr. Steiner. The Mission is also working to ensure that any measures taken by the interim administration are in keeping with the rules and benchmarks, which in turn must be in keeping with resolution 1244 (1999) and the constitutional order.

We appreciate the efforts that have been and continue to be made by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to cooperate with the Mission, particularly the current cooperation reflected in the statement of Mr. Čović, Deputy Prime Minister of Yugoslavia. My delegation also expresses its appreciation to UNMIK for its efforts to restore calm and stability to Kosovo by combating cross-border smuggling and illegal border-crossing by smugglers. We encourage cooperation with local police forces, along the lines set forth by Mr. Steiner, to combat crime and violence and to ensure respect for the rule of law. We believe that combating regional crime requires cooperation with neighbouring States in order to ensure a global fight against such crime.

We appreciate the coordination on the economic and monetary fronts. We encourage the efforts being made to encourage the return of those who left Kosovo. Such efforts will promote stability in the region, particularly the reintegration of the returnees into the local communities to ensure development, stability and reconstruction. We look forward with confidence to the municipal elections, which will be held in October 2002. We express the hope that all groups and ethnic

minorities in Kosovo will be represented in those municipal elections and that all groups in Kosovo will be able to participate in them.

Finally, I reiterate our appreciation to Mr. Steiner for his efforts and the efforts of the Mission. I have two questions for him. The first question is: Can he clarify the issue of returnees with regard to what measures will likely accelerate the return rate of refugees and internally displaced persons? How can their rights be guaranteed?

The second question is: What is the nature of the efforts being made to tackle the issue of abducted and missing persons? That issue is now before the Court at The Hague.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Mr. Steiner and all those who are working in UNMIK for their efforts to guarantee stability and calm in Kosovo and in the Balkans in general. We thank them for their cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Yap (Singapore): First of all, we should like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Steiner, for yet another useful briefing, as well as to thank Deputy Prime Minister Čović for his important statement. I should like to make a few points of particular interest and concern to my delegation, and to pose some questions.

At last month's public Council meeting on Kosovo, we commended Mr. Steiner for spelling out detailed benchmarks for the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). Today, we are taking advantage of the opportunity of his presence to commend him in person. As the Secretary-General said in his report (S/2002/779), those benchmarks

> "... will be used as a strategic planning tool to provide direction and a vision for both the provisional institutions and UNMIK. They will be used as a means of regularly measuring progress, building capacity within the Kosovo institutions, stimulating planning processes and engaging the resources of the entire Mission." (*para. 61*)

We agree fully with the Secretary-General on the purposes of the benchmarks, and we are glad to note that the provisional institutions have embraced benchmarks as internal goals and ends and that they are becoming more and more involved in developing and taking tangible steps to meet those benchmarks.

Indeed, the benchmark process appears already to have contributed to substantial progress in a number of critical areas in Kosovo — responsible Government institutions, law and order and the return and reconciliation of displaced persons, to name a few. However, it is clear that Kosovo is not yet out of the woods. Much more remains to be done to bring security, stability and advancement to the province, and the vision of an all-inclusive, multi-ethnic society is still some distance away.

In that regard, we would appreciate it if Mr. Steiner could give us his assessment concerning the factors that have led to the substantial progress made in Kosovo in recent months. Perhaps he could also share with us his views on how such factors could be harnessed and reinforced to bring Kosovo further towards his vision for the territory.

We know that one key issue with regard to which there has been little forward movement is Mitrovica. The fact that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has been unable fully to exercise its authority over Mitrovica is worrisome. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has cooperated well with UNMIK in many areas. We hope that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will extend its cooperation to the Mission with regard to Mitrovica as well.

It is evident from the statements of Mr. Čović and Mr. Steiner that there are wide differences on the Mitrovica issue. In that regard, we should like to ask Mr. Steiner and Mr. Čović what confidence-building measures can be put in place to bring Mitrovica closer to a solution.

Ms. Lajous (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, my delegation would like to thank Mr. Michael Steiner for his very comprehensive briefing today, which complements the periodic report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/779).

I should also like to express our appreciation for this morning's statement by Deputy Prime Minister Čović, who provided a distinct but complementary view of the objectives for the future. We have also viewed with great interest the document associated with Mr. Čović's statement, on the decentralization strategy in Kosovo and Metohija and on the strengthening of national, local and community Governments. We shall study it very carefully, and we should like Mr. Čović to know that this is a matter of

great interest and relevance to our country, where we have recently made important progress with regard to respect for autonomous indigenous peoples. We believe, as he said this morning, in the importance of the democratic process, respect for the mandate of majorities, and respect for the rights of minorities.

At the same time, we have noted with satisfaction that, during the time period covered by the report, important advances have been made in Kosovo's situation, mainly as a result of the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). In that connection, we should like to stress something that we have emphasized in the past: the importance that Mexico attaches to the definitive formation of a multi-ethnic Government in Kosovo and the prospects for the electoral processes that will take place on 26 October.

In that context, it is encouraging to see the broad interest of non-governmental organizations and political entities — including some that represent the Serbian population — in participating as observers of the electoral process. Mexico considers it fundamental that the members of the Serbian community and of other minorities — including refugees and internally displaced persons — participate in the electoral process. We welcome the measures that UNMIK has adopted, in cooperation with the authorities of the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, to ensure that those outside Kosovo can vote by mail.

As has been said, the return of refugees and of displaced persons to their communities of origin is a basic condition to achieve reconciliation in Kosovo and the final objective of a multi-ethnic Kosovo. That is why, in my previous statement, I emphasized the importance that Mexico attaches to the document of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), in which the principles for sustainable return are established. We are pleased to note that, for the first time since UNMIK's arrival in Kosovo, there is an environment that favours inter-ethnic dialogue and the possibility of return. We hope that those conditions will continue and improve, and that UNMIK will do its utmost to ensure that the principles for the sustainable return of refugees and of displaced persons can be carried out in practice.

The objectives and difficulties that UNMIK faces are many, and I wish to join the delegations that have taken the floor before me in pointing out some of my delegation's concerns.

First, concerning the previous reference to the Mitrovica situation, we believe that cooperation among the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is fundamental in order to resolve the problem of parallel structures. Secondly, we should like to mention our concern at the reduction in UNMIK's budget, which could negatively affect the fulfilment of its tasks. Finally, I should like to refer to what Mr. Steiner said about the importance of ensuring the flow of financial resources to Kosovo. Undoubtedly, the most important point in ensuring the flow of those financial resources is the full operation of the rule of law — and full compliance with the laws — in Kosovo.

Nevertheless, we believe that, in addition to achieving that goal, it is also necessary to promote the integration of Kosovo's economy into the European and international economies. In this connection, I would like to know whether any specific attempts have been made, similar to those that have been successfully employed elsewhere in the world, to promote microcredit programmes to ensure that refugees returning to their communities have an opportunity to begin economic activities, thereby directly promoting the well-being of communities.

Obviously, the attitude of donors is essential to doing all this. My delegation would like to appeal to those who have been making considerable contributions to Kosovo's economic recovery not to overlook that aspect.

Mr. Diallo (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to welcome Mr. Nebojša Čović, Deputy Prime Minister of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia and President of the Coordination Centre of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, and to thank him for his statement. I would also like to welcome Mr. Steiner. We have listened with interest to the very useful information he has just given us on the situation in Kosovo.

We welcome the significant progress that has been made, including the establishment of a multi-ethnic Government, the adoption of a plan of government, and the fact that the Assembly has begun its work. However, we would like to emphasize the need to ensure the representation of minorities in the parliamentary committees and their recruitment into

the civil service. We also support the efforts under way to organize the municipal elections of next October. We believe that successful elections will certainly serve to strengthen the democratic process.

It is essential that the implementation of economic programmes take into account the interests of all the members and groups in the province. That should go hand in hand with strengthening the rule of law throughout Kosovo. In this regard, we endorse the establishment of local law and order capacities.

The question of returns of refugees and displaced persons, as well as their reintegration, is very important to reconciliation in Kosovo. The fate of missing persons and the issue of the return of property should also be giving very special attention. It is essential to have adequate resources with which to do this work. We support the Secretary-General's appeal to the donor community. We also welcome and encourage the use of media to raise awareness among communities.

We are pleased to take note of the efforts being made to improve relations between Kosovo, on the one hand, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on the other. This has contributed to re-establishing confidence and to ensuring that dialogue continues.

In conclusion, my delegation endorses the contents of paragraph 61 of the report of the Secretary-General with regard to the criteria for measuring the progress made. We would also like to stress our concern about the substantial reduction in the budget of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, which would oblige it to transfer responsibility and authority to the provisional institutions earlier than scheduled. We would appreciate it if Mr. Steiner could give us more details about what measures are being envisaged to offset the consequences of that transfer.

Mr. Rivas (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Colombia would like to begin by welcoming Mr. Nebojša Čović, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, and to thank him for the contribution he is making towards the establishment of a multi-ethnic Government and society in Kosovo. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Steiner, Special Representative of the Secretary-General responsible for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), for the excellent work he is doing. My Government recognizes in particular the commitment and dedication he has demonstrated in recent months to try to ensure the establishment of a strong provisional Government in Kosovo.

The successful transfer of functions to the local executive body has strengthened the public, pluralistic and multi-ethnic structure. I would also like to congratulate the Assembly, which adopted the Government programme on the basis of the agreement reached on 28 February and the benchmarks introduced by the Special Representative during his first statement to the Security Council, last April.

Since the establishment of the ministerial cabinet, last June, we have repeatedly received positive news about the activities undertaken by the legislative branch in connection with its willingness to take the necessary measures to protect the interests of the various communities of Kosovo. The democratization process has clearly pointed to an increase in the participation of communities in local bodies. For example, the Assembly decided to increase the number of committee members in order to ensure that minority communities have better representation in the decision-making process. The move towards municipal elections, which are scheduled for 26 October 2002, is surely a serious test to the process of political and social integration of Kosovars. Mr. Steiner has been right to strengthen the monitoring teams for the elections and above all to promote the active participation of all communities in the electoral process from the very beginning.

Despite the efforts of the Special Representative to ensure all the necessary conditions to guarantee a provisional structure for effective self-government, we must continue to work to establish a transparent judicial system and to strengthen the rule of law. The recent detention of some members of the Kosovo Liberation Army leads us to think that the authorities are fighting organized crime and impunity through formal and effective judicial processes.

We are also concerned about the fact that there continues to be a high level of unemployment, estimated to be 57 per cent. The implications of this for the economic revitalization of Kosovo are also a matter of concern. The Secretary-General's report refers to the possibility of stagnation in the process of fiscal expansion, given, among other things, the performance of the business sector and the scarce to non-existent

foreign investment. The report also refers to the consequences of the reduction in donations and the negative impact on Kosovo's overall budget. Although the activities to promote foreign investment initiated by the European Union have been a wise step, we nevertheless think that greater efforts must be made by the international community to promote economic growth in Kosovo.

Finally, we consider it urgent to review the return and reintegration processes for hundreds of Kosovar refugees and displaced persons. We support the request made by the Secretary-General in his report, reminding donors that the Mission must have the necessary resources to successfully carry out the reintegration into society of persons displaced by the conflict. The essential process to ensure an inclusive provisional Government must be sustainable and founded on pluralistic and multi-ethnic participation.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all, like other delegations, I would like to welcome Mr. Nebojša Čović to today's meeting, and to express my gratitude for his statement. I am also very grateful to Mr. Steiner for his comprehensive briefing.

We welcome the efforts made by Mr. Steiner since he took office to stabilize the situation in Kosovo, promote the political process, strengthen the capacities of the police and judicial systems and restore and develop the economy of Kosovo. Under Mr. Steiner's leadership, the achievements made by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to contribute to effective administration by the provisional Government are apparent to everyone. The Chinese delegation supports UNMIK in continuing its comprehensive and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and hopes that, on the basis of its existing work, it will take further measures to combat organized crime along the Kosovo border, protect the freedom and security of minorities, including Serbs, facilitate refugee returns and resolve the problem of missing persons, so that a multi-ethnic society can be established soon in Kosovo. Furthermore, we would like to see further cooperation between the provisional Government in Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Now we would like to ask two questions to Mr. Steiner.

The first concerns the proper name of Kosovo. In paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report, it is stated that the Assembly failed to include the amendments made by the Kosovo Serb members on the conditions for return. Furthermore, it would not allow Kosovo Serb members to use, Kosovo and Metohija, as the full name of Kosovo. We would like to know the views of Mr. Steiner on this question, and how it was finally resolved.

Secondly, with regard to the security situation along the border of Kosovo, the Secretary-General said, in paragraph 21 of his report, that the overall security trend remains encouraging. The main crime indicators show that most crimes had an economic basis. We note that only six major crimes were listed here, with the leading ones involving drugs and weapons. There were eight indicators fewer than those listed in his previous quarterly report.

We understand that smuggling is still a serious problem along the Kosovo border. According to reports, this is to a certain extent related to a reduction of KFOR. We would like to hear the comments and views of Mr. Steiner in this regard.

Mr. Jingree (Mauritius): We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Steiner, for his comprehensive briefing this morning. We also thank Deputy Prime Minister Čović for his useful statement.

Mauritius is encouraged to see the general positive development taking place in Kosovo. The formation of the provisional institutions of self-government, with full representation from all ethnic communities, shows the determination of all communities to work together in the best interest of the Kosovo population. We note with satisfaction that minority communities are also being represented in functional committees, in line with the Constitutional Framework. We have also noted that the concerns of the minority communities are often not taken into account by the Assembly. We call on the Kosovo Assembly to be more open to representation from minority communities and to ensure that future decisions of the Assembly enjoy the full support of all members.

Likewise, we have noted the encroachment on UNMIK responsibilities by the Kosovo Assembly, something that warranted the Special Representative's intervention and subsequent action by the Security

Council. We call on the Kosovo Assembly to concentrate on the competences entrusted to it and to follow the guidelines established recently by UNMIK regarding the distribution of responsibilities between the provisional institutions of the self-government and UNMIK. Trust and confidence should be the underlining principles of the relations between UNMIK and the provisional institutions of self-government.

We were pleased to hear from Mr. Steiner that preparations for the October municipal elections in Kosovo are on track. We hope to see full participation of minority communities in those elections. My delegation notes with satisfaction the various steps taken by UNMIK in the preparation of the municipal elections. Of particular importance is the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the institution-building pillar of UNMIK, with, respectively, the Commissariat for Refugees of Serbia and the Montenegran authorities, aimed at encouraging Kosovo cities and those who have taken refuge in those areas to vote during those elections. In this context, the contribution of political leaders is also significant. We call on them to positively influence the participation of all minority communities.

On the issue of return of minority communities in the homeland of Kosovo, we welcome the various steps taken by the Kosovo Government to integrate all minority communities in its provisional institutions. We encourage the Government to facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. We also encourage UNMIK to continue its various projects aimed at supporting minority returns throughout the province.

The abolition of visas by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for holders of UNMIK travel documents will indeed be a significant boost to the freedom of movement and will contribute to mutual confidence-building across borders. UNMIK should continue to help Kosovo normalize its relations with its neighbours in this respect.

We believe that two important issues still need serious attention in order to bring long-lasting and sustainable peace to Kosovo.

First, the need for Kosovo to be able to get financial and economic support to develop its capacity in the various sectors of Government administration and police. Secondly, the need to combat organized crime, transport of terrorism and smuggling, which have not yet been totally curbed. In this respect, we call on neighbouring countries to collaborate with the provisional institutions of self-government and UNMIK in order to address this issue.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the Special Representative and his team for the good work being carried out in fulfilling their mandate in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).

Mr. Kavanagh (Ireland): We in this delegation are very grateful to Special Representative Steiner for his wide-ranging briefing this morning. We also thank Deputy Prime Minister Čović for his statement. We appreciate the work that has gone into preparing the Secretary-General's report.

Ireland fully supports the statement that will be delivered shortly by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the European Union.

Ireland is encouraged by the increased focus of the provisional institutions of self-government on their assigned tasks in the most recent period. The passage of the Kosovo Assembly's first piece of legislation and preliminary work on further legislation is an especially important step in this regard. But we believe it should be seen as simply a first step.

The Assembly should not allow itself to be distracted in the coming period from the very important range of areas for which it is responsible. There is, as Mr. Steiner has reiterated again this morning, a continuing need for urgent progress in the health and education sectors, progress which has been delayed as the Assembly strays into other responsibilities.

Beyond further progress on the passage of legislation, there is a continued need for all political leaders to develop a substantive dialogue, both within and between the various communities. Political leaders will be unable to represent their constituencies effectively without real progress in this area. Such a political dialogue will also be a key aspect of preparation for the municipal elections, which have been scheduled now for 26 October. It is important that the views of the Kosovo Serb members of the Assembly be given due consideration. We encourage Special Representative Steiner in his efforts to address this and other issues within the Assembly. We know indeed that he is doing so.

We are encouraged by the initial phase of preparation for the municipal elections, including the

certification of a broad range of political parties. The level of participation in the certification process is a very encouraging sign — and a major improvement in comparison with the previous municipal elections held in 2000. We look forward to the full participation of all communities in those elections.

We are also encouraged by progress by the provisional institutions in establishing concrete actions designed to meet the benchmarks set out by the Special Representative before the Council in April. As the Secretary-General has said, the ultimate goal must be local ownership of the process, and the full engagement of the Assembly will be critical to this end.

Improved cooperation in the work of the provisional institutions must be accompanied by real progress on the creation of a society based on the rule of law. Kosovo's future development can only be assured in such an environment. We are encouraged, therefore, by some improvements in the overall security situation, and particularly with regard to a decrease in violent crime. We fully support the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to enforce the rule of law, through, for example, the arrest of former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army last month, among other high-profile arrests. The recent improvement in the security situation of minority groups gives grounds for cautious hope that we are entering a new phase in Kosovo's troubled history. Democracy will only be able to take hold where crime and violence cease to hold sway.

While the positive trend in relation to the Kosovo Police Service has continued, it is now accompanied by signs of real change with regard to minority representation in the judiciary. We welcome the cooperation of the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in Serbia with regard to issues such as pension and social security rights, but it is essential that there be rapid movement on the dismantling of parallel judicial structures, so that the proposed changes have a real impact on the ground. The situation in Mitrovica in particular remains unacceptable, and there must be early progress on the dismantling of parallel security structures.

As the Secretary-General's report makes clear, there is now, for the first time, a climate which may be genuinely conducive to the promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue and returns. The Kosovo Assembly, building on very positive signals from Prime Minister Rexhepi, adopted an important resolution earlier this month on the rights of communities and the conditions for returns. This has been accompanied by a small but significant increase in minority returns. Significant, too, is the increase in small-scale local cooperation projects. It is, in the end, reconciliation efforts at this level that will determine whether there can be a real step forward in facilitating a significant number of returns over the next two years. We fully support the efforts of UNMIK at all levels to facilitate the process of dialogue and reconciliation.

As we have said previously, it is vital now that we seize the opportunity offered by this growing positive momentum, encouraging efforts at both the local and regional levels. The putting into place of a framework of economic measures will, of course, be a key component in encouraging lasting returns to Kosovo.

Progress on the returns issue is intimately linked to the development of dialogue with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We are encouraged by the recent progress that has been made through meetings of the High-ranking Working Group. The incremental progress that has been made in this and other formats is laying the foundation for close cooperation between the provisional institutions and the authorities in Belgrade.

UNMIK and the provisional institutions of self-government have begun to cooperate closely on measures to encourage economic development in Kosovo. In our view, it is important that progress be made in creating the conditions for real investor confidence in Kosovo, so that there can be a genuine perspective of hope, in particular for the unemployed. It is only through progress on the economic front that real and long-lasting stability can be created in Kosovo. This is especially true with regard to the many unemployed young people.

Let me say in conclusion that Kosovo's vocation lies in Europe. Peace and stability in south-east Europe are dependent on Kosovo's successful development. In our view, Kosovo's leaders should work to build a truly multi-ethnic, democratic society in order to ensure Kosovo's progress along the road towards European integration. Ireland, together with its partners in the European Union, will continue to support greater integration and regional cooperation through the

Stability Pact and the Stabilization and Association Process.

Mr. Tidjani (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Cameroon welcomes Deputy Prime Minister Čović and Mr. Steiner, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We wish to convey to Mr. Steiner our full appreciation for his detailed briefing on the situation in Kosovo. We followed his briefing with great attention, as we did the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister.

In our intervention during the meeting on Kosovo of 21 January 2002, my delegation insisted on the need to capitalize on all the positive signals in the report of the Secretary-General in order to strengthen the still fragile emergence of a resumption of normal activity in Kosovo.

At that time, we stated that the strengthening of security, the disarmament of all armed bands and the encouragement of the return of all minorities were priority actions that must be undertaken. Today, we note that, thanks to the dedication of the men and women working for Kosovo, action on those priorities, which were incorporated into the work of Mr. Steiner, have already borne fruit. The weak but positive signs of the past that had to be built upon have today between transformed into actual elements, and signal already the probable success of the United Nations in Kosovo.

In effect, the formation of a multi-ethnic Government and of an equally multi-ethnic parliament, as well of a police service that is one of the best examples of a modern, multi-ethnic institution, confirm the current nature of the situation. My delegation welcomes the importance attached to information on the return of displaced persons and on missing persons, to the integration of minorities into institutions and to the inter-ethnic dialogue for reconciliation. My delegation also welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and of certain States, such as Ireland and the United States, in the strengthening of the capacities of the Kosovar parliamentarians. The experience and knowledge that those parliamentarians can acquire from the practical workings of other assemblies, added to their own wisdom and determination, will provide the inspiration for a local solution.

Perhaps Mr. Steiner can tell the Council how he envisages contributing to solving the problem of the Parliament's disregard for the concerns of minorities. The creation of the Economic and Fiscal Council is another reason for satisfaction, as are the various initiatives calling for and encouraging private investment and to develop the banking sector.

As well, remarkable progress has been made in strengthening the rule of law throughout the territory of Kosovo and in the fight against insecurity and criminality in all its forms.

My delegation supports the project of regional cooperation in the fight against organized crime, which can, however, produce the desired results only if the police and judicial services just now being created or restructured live up to the hope placed in them. In this respect, the current situation leads us to predict a promising future, although greater cooperation among the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is required on judicial matters.

While the overall evaluation of the situation is positive and the action of the United Nations in Kosovo has a positive dynamic in its current stage, there is reason to remain vigilant, realistic and pragmatic. In fact, the Secretary-General, while welcoming the fortunate results obtained, did not failed to underline his concerns — it is perhaps a strong word, but they are indeed concerns — about the problem of the clear distinction between transferred responsibilities and those reserved for his Special Representative.

After the parliamentary and presidential elections, Mr. Steiner told us that he considered that the moment had come, within the framework of the new phase of the United Nations operation, for authority in Kosovo to be gradually transferred to the provisional institutions, without this necessarily affecting the province's future political status.

We supported him, following the example of other members of the Security Council. We reiterate this support today, and we would invite the Kosovo authorities to abide scrupulously by the provisions in the constitutional framework. This is the only way to proceed harmoniously and to implement the programme and process now under way.

The Secretary-General also highlighted the difficulties due to budgetary constraints — particularly in the areas of the return of displaced persons and in the civil service. Regarding the latter, we wish to encourage all efforts aimed at enhancing recruitment,

taking into account the necessary balances there. On the pay scales, we think one has to be cautious and look at what the actual standard of living is in the region. One also has to look at the role to be played by the private sector.

Returning Kosovo to normalcy will take a long time; it will require patience, perseverance and, above all, skill. These are all virtues that are required so that Kosovo can be part of the large Balkan family, free of the old demons of hatred, violence and war.

To reach this ultimate objective, there are still crucial middle phases that have to be passed through. One is the organization of the municipal elections scheduled for 26 October 2002. We greatly appreciate what UNMIK has been doing to ensure wide participation in the elections, including by voters who are currently outside of Kosovo in an orderly and transparent manner.

At this stage, my delegation cannot subscribe to any idea that would hinder the hard work under way towards the reconciliation of all components of the Kosovo population. We say "no" to "cantonization", and the delegation of Cameroon appeals to all the socio-political component parts of Kosovo to participate fully, without conditions, in this third electoral stage.

The extension of UNMIK's authority throughout Kosovo, notably in Mitrovica, and the perpetuation of good relations with Belgrade and Skopje, are matters that, in our view, deserve special attention by the United Nations in its activities. The success of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo depends now, more than ever before, on cooperation — cooperation on the part of all of the socio-political component parts of Kosovo — cooperation on the part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia — and cooperation by the international community, particularly on financial matters.

In conclusion, once again we welcome Mr. Steiner's commitment and efficiency at the helm of UNMIK. What he has done in establishing benchmarks to measure progress can be inscribed in the list of best working practices here within the United Nations. We would also like to thank and encourage all international organizations and the staff of UNMIK itself, working on a day-to-day basis in Kosovo to bring peace to all there.

Mr. Doutriaux (France)(*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Mr. Michael Steiner for his excellent briefing and also welcome Mr. Čović, the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and the President of the Coordinating Centre of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo.

Since the representative of Denmark will soon speak on behalf of the European Union (EU), I will limit my statement to several points.

The positive balance sheet that we noted in April when Mr. Steiner last came to New York is holding. The current phase is decisive in implementing resolution 1244 (1999), and the progress achieved gives us great hope that the peace efforts of the international community will become a reality. The benchmarks identified by the Special Representative give us a proper standard for measuring what has occurred so far, particularly with regard to the establishment of provisional, effective and democratic institutions; the establishment of multi-ethnic integration, according to resolution 1244 (1999); the rule of law; freedom of movement and the right of the return of refugees; a reduction in the size of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC); the establishment of positive relations with Belgrade; the development of regional cooperation; and economic development. These are all benchmarks from which one can measure the progress made.

Considerable progress has been made in recent months since the establishment in March of the coalition Government and in the establishment of democratic institutions. It is encouraging to see that there is a transfer of certain UNMIK powers to executive authorities and, at the same time, the legislative process that is gradually developing. This can be seen, for example, by the adoption on 4 July of a resolution on the return of refugees and displaced persons. This text constitutes an important, positive step, the spirit of which should set the tone for future work of the Kosovo Assembly.

The coming municipal elections will provide an opportunity to further reinforce the democratic basis of the provisional institutions by providing a new opportunity for the communities that did not participate in the 28 October 2000 elections to do or in 2002. This should be one of UNMIK's essential goals in the coming months.

In Kosovo, the primacy of the rule of law, economic development and the creation of a society that is equal for all and for all communities are inextricably linked needs. There must be simultaneous progress in all three areas in order to ensure that there will be a lasting multi-ethnic future.

We welcome the progress that has been made on the inter-ethnic dialogue. This carries great hope that there will be a reconciliation process among the communities, despite the modest number of sustainable returns of refugees and displaced persons to their homes. Likewise, a clarification of the fate of missing persons remains indispensable. Such an effort is crucial for the population to enable it more easily to turn the page on the past. The return of displaced persons will also be facilitated by greater freedom of movement on the territory of Kosovo. Recent progress in UNMIK's relations with Belgrade, as set forth in the common document of 5 November 2001, attests to this. The effective struggle against crime is another condition, and recent arrests carried out by UNMIK are a good sign in this connection.

We must recall the need for UNMIK to extend and maintain its authority over Kosovo as a whole and to fully exercise its authority, other than those powers that have been transferred to local institutions in accordance with the constitutional framework of interim self-government of Kosovo. This must apply to Mitrovica, where we welcome the efforts of UNMIK and KFOR to use a global and gradual approach in concert with the Belgrade authorities, with a view to dismantling parallel structures. This applies also to the external relations of Kosovo, which remain the sole purview of UNMIK and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Steiner.

The deepening of UNMIK's relationships, notably with Belgrade and Skopje, as described in the Secretary-General's report, deserves to be encouraged. The development of regional cooperation in the spirit of the Zagreb summit should also be supported. In general terms, all of the communities have great interest in respecting UNMIK's authority, with a view to ensuring the proper evolution of the process of interim self-government, in the spirit of resolution 1244 (1999).

Finally, I would like to welcome the fine cooperation that exists in the field between UNMIK and KFOR.

Mr. Cunningham (United States of America): I want to congratulate Special Representative Steiner on his continued progress in implementing the mandate that we have set forth in resolution 1244 (1999) and also to say that I appreciate very much the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr. Čović, and his presentation this morning.

We heard two very informative and interesting presentations at the beginning of this discussion, and whether one considers the glass as half-full or half-empty — or, perhaps, a quarter full and three-quarters empty, in this case — it is clear, I think, from the presentations that there is quite a bit of common ground as to the objectives of what we are seeking here, and I think that is positive. It is also clear that there is encouraging progress on a number of fronts, in particular with regard to the benchmarks for good governance that were presented here only three months ago.

That initial progress and good prospects for the future bear out the wisdom of an approach that puts standards of good governance before any premature discussion of political status issues.

As both Mr. Steiner and the Deputy Prime Minister noted in their comments, albeit in different ways, for us to succeed in Kosovo, the people of Kosovo must overcome their difficult and emotional history. That process seems to be beginning.

The United States has long maintained that one key to this success will be building confidence among all parts of the population that the institutions of government will govern democratically and that all will respect fully the rule of law, and that also now seems to be beginning.

We are encouraged by the continuing progress that has been made in strengthening the courts and in ensuring that all who have committed crimes are brought to justice. We applaud the additional international judges and the agreement that has been worked out for increasing the number of Serb judges and prosecutors.

The high-profile arrest and prosecution of those who have committed ethnically motivated crimes are another positive development, and the Kosovo Police Service has been a success far beyond what anyone might have expected. Its numbers include an impressive number of women and minorities, and, with

the agreement of the force in Mitrovica, it may now play an appropriate role in providing freedom of movement and civil security for the population on both sides of the river.

Still, much more remains to be done in Mitrovica, and we fully support the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to make progress there.

We are encouraged by progress on the political side as well. It is appropriate, I think, that the first piece of legislation approved by the Assembly pertained to pensions, a fundamental social and economic issue. Upcoming municipal elections in the fall offer an opportunity for all Kosovars to participate in Kosovo's self-government, and, although progress is uneven across Kosovo, we see new political parties emerging across the political spectrum and increased tolerance for building bridges between communities.

Finally, a word about returns. My Government has been a strong proponent of sustainable returns. We continue to believe that success on this difficult issue will require careful planning and significant resources, and we appreciate the work that UNMIK has done in producing the documents that Mr. Steiner circulated this morning. We applaud the progress that is beginning to be made.

The United States has provided almost $8 million to non-governmental organizations and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on this issue, and we encourage all donors to consider ways in which they can support the process. Funding shortages have led certain United Nations agencies to consider leaving Kosovo, which, on the issue of returns, would seriously undermine what UNMIK is trying to do.

My Government has committed significant resources on a wide range of issues and initiatives, including the Kosovo Police Service, the Kosovo Protection Corps, the Kosovo courts and sustainable returns. There are significant challenges remaining in Kosovo, but donors must be prepared to address all problems, no matter how difficult they might be.

I want to close simply by saying that we strongly support the efforts of Mr. Steiner and UNMIK, and we look to continued progress in the months ahead in the implementation of UNMIK's mandate.

Mr. Kolby (Norway): I, too, should like to welcome Deputy Prime Minister Čović to this meeting. I should like also to thank Special Representative Steiner for his briefing and to commend him and his staff for their tireless efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and to realize the benchmarks, not least as regards the rule of law, minority rights and the return of internally displaced persons. I will make some brief comments on these issues.

We welcome the protocols signed on 8 July in Belgrade between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Serbian Ministry of Justice regarding the return of 40 Kosovo Serb judges and prosecutors to the province. This is, in our view, a positive step in building the rule of law in Kosovo, as well as in strengthening practical and concrete cooperation between Pristina and Belgrade. Furthermore, this could contribute positively to building trust among Kosovo Serbs in the efforts of the international community.

Norway welcomes the first significant organized return of Serb internally displaced persons, which is expected to commence in the Pec and Klina municipalities. Despite the overall bleak picture as regards the actual return of internally displaced persons and refugees to Kosovo, it is encouraging that, in the first six months of 2002, more people have returned than have left. We fully support Special Representative Steiner's strong focus on this issue.

We would like to emphasize the importance of coordination between the organizations involved in facilitating returns. The current funding crisis of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the threat that this poses to the continued operation of the UNHCR in Kosovo underlines this point.

We would like to encourage UNMIK, UNHCR, the Kosovo Coordination Centre and authorities in Belgrade and Pristina to do their utmost to coordinate return-related efforts. The international community should for its part ensure that UNHCR has the necessary funding required for this very important work.

We regret the occurrence of several very unfortunate incidents that took place in Kosovo during the past several weeks. On 14 July, approximately 80 Kosovo Albanians attempted to prevent some 100

Kosovo Serbs — including Bishop Artemije — from holding a religious ceremony in the destroyed Orthodox monastery in Zociste. This was followed by two arson attempts against the remnants of the monastery.

Another setback, in our view, was the display of "hate posters" recently seen in Pristina, Pec and Mitrovica. The posters depicted a Serb soldier cutting the throat of an Albanian boy, with the text "Do not allow criminals to come back to Kosovo". Such posters are clearly well-organized acts of political propaganda aimed at undermining reconciliation among the communities and the normalization of inter-ethnic relations in Kosovo.

We expect responsible political leaders in Kosovo to take a strong, principled stand against acts of intolerance, discrimination and criminal behaviour.

Finally, Norway welcomes the holding of local elections in southern Serbia and hopes that these will be a positive contribution to regional stability. Besides strengthening the stability of the southern municipalities of Serbia, these elections can add to the stability of the whole region if the results are respected by all parties.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We, too, are pleased to welcome to this meeting today in the Security Council Mr. Steiner and Mr. Čović. Their participation in our debate makes it constructive and business-like, as it always is when they participate.

The Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) gives a full picture of the situation in that part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We agree with the report's main assessments and conclusions. At the same time, however, we feel that the situation in Kosovo is more complex and problematic. We agree that we can be pleased today about certain progress made in implementing Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and we welcome the normalization of life in Kosovo. There are grounds for saying the Mission has been successful, as can be seen most of all in further dialogue with Belgrade, in movement towards resolving the problem of Mitrovica and in the increasingly practical participation by the Serbian communities in the upcoming municipal elections. It is important to settle the matter of how Serbs can participate in the Kosovo Police Service in the northern area.

Another step in the right direction was UNMIK efforts to encourage Kosovars with legal expertise to join the judiciary being set up in Kosovo. In that connection, we greatly appreciate the efforts made by Mr. Steiner, the Special Representative, in moving these positive trends further forward. We can also say generally that UNMIK has moved ahead in establishing the provisional institutions of self-government. The Government has been formed and is functioning; the Serbian ministries, the President and the Assembly are also functioning.

At the same time, despite statements about being committed to multi-ethnicity, in practice those institutions often disregard the interests of the minorities. The latest example of that was the exclusion — due to the position taken by the Albanian majority — of any reference to the University of Northern Kosovo in the law on higher education adopted by the Assembly on 25 July. The Coalition for Return, on recommendations made by UNMIK, has set up a mechanism to protect minorities, in accordance with the Constitutional Framework. In the interest of seeking a proper settlement, the Albanian parties should be more respectful of the rights of other communities. That is particularly important in the light of the upcoming elections.

We welcome more regular contacts between the Special Representative and the leadership of the Coalition for Return in order to discuss the problems of the Serbian community in Kosovo. We believe that the dialogue between Mr. Steiner and the leader of the Yugoslav Coordination Centre in Kosovo, Mr. Čović, is yielding results. They are close to completing work on an agreement that will include recognition by the Yugoslav authorities of UNMIK car license plates. The parties have also begun to discuss the question of decentralizing the local self-government system in Kosovo.

It is important that UNMIK is taking measures to strengthen law and order. A positive development was the arrest of former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Since the beginning of this year three cases have been opened, which involve 17 persons, including members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and the Kosovo Police Service. At the same time, a matter of concern is the fact that there has been

a critical response to what the KPC is doing to the international presence. Attempts were made to discredit the work of the international presence. It is no secret to anyone that the KPC is still a paramilitary organization that is simply an offshoot of the KLA.

Therefore, we find incomprehensible the position of KFOR, which virtually supports the status of the KPC. Otherwise, how can it be explained that in June, with KFOR leadership present, there was a ceremony to award military rank to KPC members, which included the rank of General? I must say that that ceremony was hardly suggestive of a civilian undertaking.

We must also refer to continuing problems in other areas of the settlement process. Local self-government matters are still proving difficult. The status of local organs must be resolved in a way that facilitates respect for minorities' rights.

Regarding refugees — Mr. Steiner and Mr. Čović both drew attention to that situation — the statistics on the return of refugees and displaced persons to Kosovo suggest that about 1,000 people returned to the province in the first six months of this year. Serbs accounted for less than one half of the returnees. It is typical of the situation that there was an outflow of persons from the province at the same time. So at this point we cannot talk about any substantial progress having been made in this regard. It is simply not possible to discuss establishing a multinational democratic Kosovo unless the refugee problem is resolved.

The main reason for the lack of movement is the absence of real and equal security for all national communities. There are also serious problems regarding freedom of movement for non-Albanians. The Secretary-General's report mentions — and this is not coincidental — specific cases, which are far from being isolated cases, in which stones were thrown at the cars of Kosovar Serbs. There are other, similar examples of this kind of thing.

In the context of a Kosovo settlement, we must look at external factors also. For example, one of the tasks before the Special Representative is preventive political work with representatives of Kosovar Albanians regarding the confirmed demarcation of the Yugoslav-Macedonian border. We believe generally that external relations of the provisional institutions of self-government of Kosovo must proceed in strict accordance with the provisional Constitutional Framework and must fully respect the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Preventive action in this regard and closer monitoring of the activities of the institutions of the province and its representatives by UNMIK and Mr. Steiner personally are needed.

We believe this recent overall positive dynamic in the situation in the Balkans must be reinforced. There has been a constructive dialogue between Serbia and Montenegro, gradual movement towards a settlement in Macedonia, further normalization of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia, and progress in other processes as well. We are convinced that all of that can and must become a powerful impetus for an overall settlement in Kosovo, in conformity with Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The President: I shall now make a few points in my capacity as representative of the United Kingdom.

We fully subscribe to the statement that Denmark will make shortly on behalf of the European Union, which sets out our collective policy priorities, fully founded on resolution 1244 (1999). With our European partners, we regard the Secretary-General's judgement that a big step forward has been taken in this reporting period as the right one. There is absolutely no doubt that much remains to be done, but we regard the progress made thus far as a glass half full rather than a glass half empty.

We continue to support the Special Representative's priorities for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We thank him for his statement and for his very detailed briefing this morning, which has brought us usefully up to date. Likewise, we support the Kosovo Force's (KFOR) excellent work on the ground in the security field; it is doing absolutely essential work in that regard. We are also very grateful for the Deputy Prime Minister's statement to us this morning. It is very good to see him and the Special Representative working together on the remaining issues of some difficulty for the Serbian community.

Strengthening the rule of law, promoting economic progress and creating conditions to ensure sustainable returns of internally displaced persons remain the key challenges for the immediate future. The United Kingdom welcomes the update that we

have had on implementation of the benchmarking exercise, which we fully support, and we look forward to further regular reports in the future.

We welcome Mr. Čović's continued commitment to work for results on Kosovo issues. We are glad to see recent agreements between Belgrade and UNMIK to bring Serb judges into UNMIK's judicial structures — a good example of deeds being done on the ground to follow up words of commitment — and we hope to see that trend spread. It is also a good example of avoiding illegitimate parallel structures.

We regard it as essential that Kosovo develop good relations with others in the region — not least in order to boost trade and prosperity — but the Kosovo Assembly must act at all times within the terms of resolution 1244 (1999) and the constitutional framework. The Special Representative has been quite right to declare null and void any Assembly regulations falling outside their remit.

We listened carefully to Mr. Steiner's words about the Kosovo economy, and we take careful note of his plea for access to credit for the economy, which will need further thought and study. That is something which, with our European partners, we would be glad to look at. As far as the future is concerned, we also agree with his precept of standards before status, which is the right order of priority.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council and turn to the rule 37 list.

I call on the representative of Denmark, whom I invite to take a seat at the Council table and to make her statement.

Ms. Løj (Denmark): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries belonging to the European Economic Area, Iceland and Liechtenstein, align themselves with this statement.

I should like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Nebojša Čović, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Steiner, for their statements. The Special Representative's briefing, together with the Secretary-General's report, reinforces the impression of continued progress in Kosovo since the update given by Mr. Steiner when he last addressed the Security Council, three months ago. Nevertheless, only through a sustained effort by all parties will we succeed in fully implementing resolution 1244 (1999). The international community has taken on a responsibility for ensuring the long-term stability and development of Kosovo, and the European Union remains firmly committed to that goal.

An important element in implementing resolution 1244 (1999) is the creation of a culture based on the rule of law. As reported by the Secretary-General, a big step forward has been taken in this reporting period, not least with the formation of Kosovo's multi-ethnic Government. We have noted that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the provisional institutions have developed a constructive relationship. Over the past two years, Kosovo has successfully worked to achieve a more open political environment. That trend must continue.

It is extremely important that members of all communities, including those who boycotted the 2000 elections, participate in the municipal elections on 26 October. It is therefore encouraging that the recently concluded political entity certification period provided promising signals for increased minority community participation. The European Union fully supports the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to ensure free and fair elections, and we are confident that the authorities in Belgrade will reiterate last year's appeal to the Kosovo Serbs to participate in the election process.

The constitutional framework provides a clear distinction between transferred responsibilities and those reserved for the Special Representative. We fully endorse the Special Representative's firm response on recent matters relating to responsibilities for international relations. It is natural that the provisional institutions take interest in questions that have an influence on the situation in Kosovo, but their focus should be on issues under their jurisdiction. The European Union notes with satisfaction that guidelines have now been issued to the provisional institutions of self-government on entering into agreements with Governments and with international organizations.

The participation of minorities is vital to the functioning and legitimacy of the judicial system in Kosovo. Thus, the European Union welcomes the

recent understanding between UNMIK and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on securing Kosovo Serb participation in the multi-ethnic judicial system. We hope that UNMIK will continue its efforts to increase the number of judges and prosecutors from minority groups.

The European Union expresses its strong concern at the slow pace of the process of return to Kosovo. We are therefore encouraged by the Secretary-General's observation that a climate more favourable for the acceptance of returnees is emerging in local communities, thanks to UNMIK's commitment to achieving sustainable returns over the course of this year. The availability of adequate funding is crucial to ensuring progress on returns, as is the continued presence in Kosovo of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Assembly's adoption, earlier this month, of a resolution on the rights of communities and conditions for returns will, it is hoped, contribute to the acceleration of the process. The absence of reported grave ethnically motivated assaults and the improved freedom of movement for Kosovo Serbs are also positive developments.

Not knowing the fate of missing relatives constitutes a serious strain on all communities in Kosovo and is a major obstacle to reconciliation. We therefore commend and support Special Representative Steiner's endeavours in that field.

Moreover, the European Union urges the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

The situation in Mitrovica continues to be a major concern to the European Union. The illegal parallel structures in Mitrovica and in the northern part of Kosovo should be dismantled and the full authority of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) restored. We call on the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to further cooperate with UNMIK in ensuring that Mitrovica becomes an integrated part of Kosovo society and administration.

The European Union also encourages further progress in the general dialogue between UNMIK and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia based on the UNMIK/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Common Document, in fulfilment of resolution 1244 (1999).

In this statement I have touched upon most of the areas for which benchmarks have been established. The European Union confirms its strong support for the benchmark process. As stated by Mr. Steiner to the Council in April, those benchmarks represent expectations for the Kosovo leaders and the wider public. In order to be successful, the process must involve a joint effort by UNMIK and the provisional institutions to establish a common understanding on the road map to the future.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Nikolov (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): Before I start, I would like to thank Mr. Steiner for his useful briefing and express my gratitude for the statement made by Deputy Prime Minister Čović. I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address the Security Council.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia welcomes the efforts and activities undertaken by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to further improve the situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We believe that the positive developments and the whole process of stabilization of the situation in Kosovo will continue in the future, if we work together to build a multi-ethnic society and democratic institutions, consolidate the economy, achieve substantive progress in the area of security, strengthen the rule of law, reform the judicial system, combat terrorism and organized crime, and tackle crime and violence, et cetera. In this regard, we also welcome the recently established benchmarks, a concept being developed by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative that we consider to be of great importance for promoting the democratization process in Kosovo.

In order to facilitate the movement of citizens in Kosovo into the Republic of Macedonia, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia has recently abolished visas for the holders of UNMIK travel documents and has taken a decision to recognize vehicle plates issued by UNMIK. At the same time, intensive efforts have been made to find practical modalities for issuing temporary permits to Kosovar citizens who own grazing lands in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as for citizens of the Republic of

Macedonia who own land in Kosovo. This has been done with the aim of facilitating movement within the border area and the cultivation of land.

The protocol on police cooperation is in the final stages of signature. Other memorandums regarding customs and bus transportation are being prepared. The Government has also decided to open a new border crossing, Tanusevci-Kodra Fura, between the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Furthermore, the Macedonian authorities have established a solid channel for communication with UNMIK for consultations on all of the above mentioned issues in order to find practical solutions. Nevertheless, the Joint Expert Committee mentioned in paragraph 52 of the report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK (S/2002/779) has never been established.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to once again welcome the prompt and decisive reaction of Special Representative Steiner with regard to the declaration of local Kosovo authorities renouncing the agreement on border delineation and demarcation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Macedonia firmly believes that the United Nations and the international community will continue efforts to prevent any activities that could lead to destabilizing the border area and the region as a whole. In that regard, the roles of UNMIK under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and of the Special Representative are of the utmost importance in preventing possible consequences that could not only affect regional security but could also be considered as attempts that could damage the reputation of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the firm position of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia with regard to the proposed solutions to the problems faced by the local population aimed at facilitating communication between the people living on both sides of the border that must fully respect the agreement on border delineation and demarcation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Nesho (Albania): The Albanian delegation welcomes the presence of, and the presentation made by, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Steiner, at today's meeting. We also support the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). In particular, we would like to commend the tremendous activities of UNMIK and the vision and great commitment of Special Representative Steiner in leading UNMIK towards the creation of an open and democratic society in Kosovo that is capable of respecting the will of the people and its great aspiration to become a part of Europe and its democratic institutions.

The outstanding leadership of UNMIK and Special Representative Steiner has provided concrete results towards the establishment of functioning democratic institutions and the rule of law, decentralization, a market economy and the fight against organized crime. It has also contributed to the creation of an open, democratic and multi-ethnic society, in which no one is above the law and where, above all, Albanians, Serbs, Bosnians and others can live and work together and share responsibility for their common country in an undivided and democratic Kosovo that is part of democratic Europe.

The great contribution made by UNMIK and KFOR in Kosovo since the very beginning of their activities is proof of the legacy of the international community's efforts to make Kosovo a success story. Today Kosovo's democratic and representative institutions have successfully carried out general elections for its parliament and for local governments, and have re-established the education system in which 420,000 pupils attend 120 schools and 50,000 students attend university.

Kosovo has embarked on a fast-track to build infrastructure and telecommunications and to regenerate energy sources. Kosovo is expanding its economic, social and commercial relations with Balkan countries, continuing along the path of integration into south-eastern Europe as a necessary precondition for its further integration into a united Europe.

The implementation of the benchmarks presented here in the Security Council by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Steiner — such as creating functioning democratic institutions, institutionalizing the rule of law, freedom of movement everywhere for everyone, the return and integration of displaced people, regenerating the Kosovo economy and property rights — is the necessary condition that will lead Kosovo towards Europe. The benchmarks

also represent the heaviest burden in terms of orienting the will of the people in the right direction.

Obviously, all this success is achieved in an environment where the different parties do not yet trust each other, where the tragic past is trying to cast its shadow on the future, where Kosovo is still considered by some as part of nationalistic scenarios intended to gain political power. Furthermore, the paraliel structure and paramilitary groups in northern Kosovo try to compromise the establishment of a multi-ethnic society. Finally, the traditional policy and the Balkan mentality of mistrust continue to hold hostage the opposing parties, preventing them from seeing in the future a positive, irreversible reality that will serve stability and regional peace, creating the ground for a prosperous and integrated region.

For this reason, the Albanian Government will continue support UNMIK and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in order to successfully implement their work. The Albanian delegation had requested, at a previous meeting of the Security Council, that the legitimate representatives of democratic institutions of Kosovo be present at this meeting, at which the future of their society is discussed.

We commend the initiative of Mr. Steiner, who invited a group of representatives of the Kosovo Assembly to today's meeting. Unfortunately, this farsighted action was wilfully and wrongfully misinterpreted within the confines of some narrow interest. We are of the opinion that the Special Representative must continue to insist on the presence of the legitimate representatives of the people of Kosovo in this body.

Mr. Čović (Yugoslavia) (*spoke in Serbian; interpretation provided by the delegation*): I would like to comment upon some remarks that were made. I would like to thank you for your warm words, which were directed towards me and towards the Government of the Republic of Yugoslavia.

I would like to say that return cannot be one of the 30 projects that are in the process of being realized. The situation of the displaced persons in Yugoslavia is very difficult and dramatic indeed. We have around 700,000 refugees and displaced persons. We have twice managed to prevent people from raising barricades on the roads to Kosovo. We really believe that financial support is necessary in this respect. I applaud what the Norwegian delegation suggested, that we should coordinate our efforts with regard to the return of displaced persons to Kosovo and Metohija.

As far as the benchmarks are concerned, we gave them full support when Mr. Steiner presented them, and we still give them our support. We want to improve them, and the biggest improvement in that regard would be a temporal dimension, a temporal plan for their realization. I am grateful for the opinion that we should not talk about the final status of Kosovo and Metohija until we achieve certain standards.

Mitrovica has been mentioned several times, and this is a question and a problem for all of us. However, we are slowly making headway in this respect, and I am sure that you understand all the facts that were brought by the Yugoslav delegation.

Everything we achieved was achieved not by pressure, but by agreement. We will solve the problems of Mitrovica and we will continue our progress. However, I have a suggestion. "Bandits" or "gangs" are not good words for just any group. I have had the opportunity to sit with members of the former Kosovo Liberation Army in southern Serbia, but I never used the term "bandits". The reason is that I wanted to solve the problem. This is the case even though those people were less educationally advantaged than those who are at the bridge in Mitrovica. This is a problem we have inherited from Yugoslavia. Parallel structures and gate-watching are the consequence of fear and of the violation of basic human rights of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. I am glad that we are making progress every day.

As for Macedonia, we are very glad that there was progress, and we hope that Macedonia will respect the border demarcation agreement. We believe that this is a very important task.

Finally, I am grateful for your support. However, I did not come to the Security Council to listen to your praise. This is my job. I will strive, with your help, to continue being successful in this job. I like compliments, but we cannot live on compliments. The half-empty, half-full glass may still not quench your thirst. There are many people who have problems. There are Serbs, Albanians, Romas, people from different ethnic communities, and I am very glad when I saw that certain countries in the region were inspired by what we were doing in Kosovo and Metohija. I am very glad our efforts are used as a model to solve

problems in other regions. I will be at these countries' disposal to help them out. And I am sure UNMIK will do the same.

Mr. President, thank you very much for allowing me to speak in the Security Council. I hope that we shall meet again soon, and that we will discuss the temporal dimension of these problems.

The President: I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for these further clarifications and for his expression of continued commitment.

I shall now give the floor to Mr. Steiner to respond to comments and questions raised.

Mr. Steiner: I shall try to go through all the many questions as quickly as possible.

The first point is the matter of return. I think we should not lose sight of the fundamentals. 1999 is only three years past.

You might remember that the reason the international community intervened, first as a military presence and then as a civilian presence, was that most of the people in Kosovo were driven out. You have to understand that a certain length of time is needed before return really becomes possible. There were displaced persons not only among the minorities but also among the majority. A certain length of time is required. We have the encouraging example of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When we first started the return efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I thought that it would be impossible for a sizeable number to return to Bosnia. Now, seven years later, we have seen returns to the most difficult cities. We have returns to Prijedor, Stolac and, this year, thousands of families returning to Srebrenica. That shows that it works, that with the right approach it is possible to have minority returns. Ours is a bottom-up approach, because you need to prepare return projects from the ground up, from the grassroots, and then present them to the donor community.

That brings me to my main point in this context. The international community and the Security Council have asked us to make minority returns possible. We have reported to the Council that we have the necessary parameters to make return really possible on the ground. Return is possible and has started this year, this summer. But it will cost money. Later on, here in New York, we will also inform the donor community of what is possible. Specifically, we will present 30 projects for a quite sizeable number of returns, which can start immediately. If the Council asks me to make return possible and we prepare it, then I will have to ask the Council to help us financially. Otherwise, it cannot work. Return cannot work if those concrete projects are not supported.

The issue of missing persons was mentioned several times by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the European Union. I think it is an absolutely crucial element psychologically. That is why we have completely re-organized our efforts in this area. We have a new office of missing persons under the leadership of someone who comes from the Hague and who has considerable experience. Mr. Pablo Baraybar leads that office and has already shown significant results. I have invited the families and the representatives of the families of the missing from Belgrade and from Serbia, as well as those from Kosovo, to meet with me because this is an issue that we need to address together. They came to Priština, and we had a meeting in my office. I think it was quite a successful meeting. To be concrete, let me tell you that the Office of Missing Persons announced publicly in Priština today that we will now issue medical death certificates. That is very important because those families want legally valid information regarding the fate of their loved ones. We are starting this process to give people legal surety. I think that it is difficult and cannot be worked out overnight, but the record here is quite impressive.

With respect to benchmarks, let me go beyond the details. It is a living document. I am also ready to adopt it in the light of further progress. But what are the benchmarks in reality? They are for the Kosovars. Those who have thought about it understand that. Benchmarks are the way to Europe. If you fulfil the benchmarks, you also fulfil the essential preconditions for moving in that direction – and everyone wants to go in that direction. At the same time, the benchmarks are not a formal prerequisite. They are an aim and goal in themselves, and they are what people want. They are the precondition that we can address. It is the question of unemployment, which is such a heavy burden on Kosovo. It is the precondition that people can go to the institutions and to the courts and have their rights or freely use the streets in security. The benchmarks are in essence also what the people want. This is essentially why they are supported.

A final point: I think it just makes good sense to say that before you can address the question of status,

the substantial autonomy — whatever form it may take — as prescribed in resolution 1244 (1999), you need something that can carry that autonomy. If you do not have functioning institutions, then it remains on paper. You first have to create a functioning, respectable society and functioning institutions. Then it makes sense to talk about the status. I think that people have understood that. Not everyone, but those who are really working in the interest of Kosovo.

Let me also say a word on Mitrovica, which was mentioned several times. We are pursuing a strategy together with the commander of KFOR, General Marcel Valentin, and our cooperation in that regard is excellent. Our strategy addresses several decisive elements, because you cannot solve Mitrovica by addressing just one element. I am grateful that Council members have stressed the point that parallel structures have to go. They are in contradiction with resolution 1244 (1999) and are exactly the opposite of what we want to achieve.

The second point is that policing is key. You need to have a police force that works in the interest of the people, including that of the people in northern Mitrovica. Since the last time I reported to the Council, I have massively increased the presence of the police. The police are working and doing normal police work in Mitrovica, which changes the picture on the ground.

Also with respect to Mitrovica, we will, of course, apply there the policy of zero tolerance for crime and corruption. If need be and if we have proof, we will also arrest people there, not only in the rest of Kosovo. That is what the population there expects. The population is sick and tired of this grey zone in which criminals can visibly go about their business. Equally important is to find ways to allow political participation on the municipal level as well. We have developed a model of how this can happen. But the precondition is that there exists a readiness to take part in the political structures, which must be part of the overall system based on resolution 1244 (1999).

Another element is economics. The economic situation in northern Mitrovica is miserable, and it needs to be changed. People want it to be changed because people there do not want to be without economic prospects. It can be done. We have developed quite a comprehensive programme for an economic perspective in the north of Mitrovica, but there is a simple economic fact. You will not get business or investment when the legal framework is not clear but is still a grey area; when one does not know what law is to be applied; when there are not yet reliable institutions; and when illegal institutions govern the situation. The precondition for helping the economy in the north is the removal of the parallel structures there.

Let me mention one point that has been raised several times and which I think is a legitimate concern of the Serbs living in northern Mitrovica. Of course, there is fear. I have said publicly — and I also speak on behalf of the KFOR commander — that I will personally guarantee that there will be no incursion from the south over the Ibar river to the north. I can say that on the basis of fact; those are not just words. We can guarantee that no Serb in the north has to fear any incursion from the south if he accepts the common institutions that should govern in the whole of Kosovo. We give this guarantee, and I can say here that we can hinder any incursions so that no one will have fear. Each person has only to expect advantages in joining the legitimate structures.

There was a visit to Mitrovica — and northern Mitrovica — by Admiral Johnston, who is CINCSOUTH and came from Italy. He said publicly — in fact, he could even tell the Council — that he did not recognize northern Mitrovica; it had changed because of the increased presence of the police, of our administration, of UNMIK. He said that he could see it, he could smell it. Precisely what the people in the north want is to become part of the legitimate structure.

The representative of Mexico asked about the possibility of microcredits. I think this is an absolutely crucial element. We have seen an enormous success story in an institution coming from Bangladesh, the Gramin Fund, which is handing out very small microcredits to people in rural areas. It functions in an incredibly impressive way. It shows how people can start businesses with small amounts and then produce their own way of life.

In this context, let me also say that the representative of Mexico is the only one who has mentioned something very important to us, and this again relates to money: it is the funding for our budget. Indeed, it is true that the reductions we had to face — and we will have to face in the future — bring us to the limit of our capabilities and will force us, if it continues, to cut down on our efforts to fight crime. I

think it is the wrong moment to do this, when we are just beginning to see the first fruits of the new structure that we have set up in the framework of justice and the police.

Let me answer two points that were mentioned by the representative of China. First of all, as regards the treatment of the name question in parliament — Kosovo, or Kosovo Metohija — I think this is very simple and have made it clear in Kosovo. The official name of Kosovo is Kosovo. Members of the Council can read this in resolution 1244 (1999). This is the name. We apply it in the Constitutional Framework. We also use it in official documents, because it is the name used in resolution 1244 (1999). At the same time, if someone uses another name orally in parliament or in writing, I think it is very clear that this will not have any consequences. I also made this fact clear to the parliament, where a member of that body can use the word Kosovo Metohija, as it is traditional, but in official documents we follow the guidelines we got from resolution 1244 (1999) and the Constitutional Framework.

On crime, the issue of smuggling was mentioned. Indeed, this is one of our big challenges. I think we are beginning to make some progress here when we think about the millions and millions of cigarettes and other smuggled goods that we have confiscated. By the way, one essential element is gasoline, which has a much greater potential; its volume is much bigger than cigarettes.

Let me mention a practical example. Last week I was at the boundary line between Kosovo and Montenegro, where we have two checkpoints. One is on the Kosovo side, and the other is on the Montenegro side. But between the two checkpoints there are seven kilometres of road going over the mountains. When travelling there, as I did last week, one can see a gasoline station every 300 metres. If one looks at the price of the gasoline, as I did, it can be seen that the cost is 50 euro cents per litre. But in Kosovo or Montenegro it costs 86 cents. One can see from this difference that, if many cars pass by, this is quite a lot of money, amounting to millions.

These are issues that we need to address and to overcome, to the benefit of the budget of Montenegro, as well as that of Kosovo. The solution for something like this is, of course, co-location. This means that the two checkpoints, instead of being apart, should be put together so that there is no longer a "no man's land". These are the practical measures that we need to address. Indeed, this is a big problem, and a lot of money is evading our budgets and getting lost.

The representatives of Mauritius, the Syrian Arab Republic and others mentioned participation in the forthcoming municipal elections. I think this is a very essential point, because, since politics are local, power, to a certain extent, is also local. What we have so far are 73 political units applying for certification for the municipal elections. Out of these more or less 73 parties, 34 are Serb. This is very encouraging within the context of multi-ethnicity. And it is right, because it has been the Serb parties who have rightly insisted on the municipal elections, because they are in their interest. In communities where they form a sizeable part of the population, it would mean that they have either the majority or a sizeable part in the municipal assembly. Therefore, it is in their interest to take part in the municipal elections, and they should not listen to those who tell them something else.

The representatives of Cameroon and of the Russian Federation mentioned the question of the rights of minorities in the Kosovo Assembly. There was a reference to procedures that we established under the Constitutional Framework. I think that we should see that the Constitutional Framework foresees exceptionally powerful minority protection mechanisms. I am very happy that the Serb representatives have, in the case of the recent law on higher education, used this mechanism, which protects them. It is a mechanism which allows anyone who feels that a minority right has been violated to challenge the law — just adopted by a majority in the parliament — and go to the presidency of the parliament, which has to find or propose a solution by consensus. If there is no consensus, then a panel will be formed with the claimant — the one who pretends that a right has been violated — with the other side, and with a third person whom I will nominate. The panel will decide by majority vote. If the Assembly then adopts the law, fine. If not, the whole law comes to me for promulgation. And of course I will take due account of the panel's recommendation.

What I am saying is that, if we have cases where someone feels that minority rights have been violated, as in the case of higher education, we do have mechanisms, and it is very important that the mechanisms foreseen by the provisional constitution

are applied in such cases. I am very happy that this is exactly what is happening in the case the representatives have mentioned.

Let me say a word on decentralization. There will be no horizontal solutions to this question. We will not have new municipal boundaries. This will not help us, as we will have no cantonization.

Our approach is a vertical approach, which, by the way, does not apply only in some of the communal areas. It should apply throughout Kosovo, because it follows the modern European trend of the devolution of power from the central level to the local level.

We therefore have a model which will also allow minorities, even if they do not form a majority in a certain municipality, to be more involved in their day-to-day life, and that is exactly what they want. But there is a price for that. That price is that, just as we are asking the majority people — the Kosovo Albanians – to accept that Kosovo is not an Albanian society but a multi-ethnic society, and that it must become one, we also must request of the minorities that they be ready to integrate into this society.

That means that in the context of decentralization, we need proof that there is a readiness to participate in political life at the municipal level. That means also that the minorities must take part in the municipal elections, because one cannot on the one hand ask for more rights, albeit for good reason, and then not take part in the elections.

That is what I wished to say in response to the comments made and questions raised by Council members. Let me just say that I am very grateful for the enormous support expressed around this table for what we are doing. We are trying to do our job, and what we need in order to be successful is, of course, the Council's continued readiness to assist us.

Finally, allow me to make a proposal. We have told the Council time and again what progress has been made and what the difficulties are. Perhaps the Council should come when we have the municipal elections, on 26 October, to look at the situation and to find out for itself out where progress is being made and where we still have work to do. I think that if the Council could do this in the context of the municipal elections — if its schedule permits — it would be very helpful and an expression of the continued support of the international community for what we are doing there on the ground, and it would also give the Council an objective picture of where we are.

The President: I warmly thank the Special Representative for those further remarks. He has given us a lot to think about, including that last proposal. In carrying away our gratitude to him, could he also convey to the whole team in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from the Security Council our warm admiration for what they are doing on the ground in difficult circumstances.

There are no further speakers left on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4592/Corr.1

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4592nd meeting

Tuesday, 30 July 2002, 10.30 a.m.
New York

Corrigendum

Page 13, second column, second paragraph

The third sentence *should read* We note that only six major crimes were listed here, leaving out crimes involving drugs and weapons.

02-50580 (E)

United Nations S/PV.4593

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4593rd meeting

Tuesday, 30 July 2002, 5.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Raytchev
	Cameroon	Mr. Chungong
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Kavanagh
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Mexico	Ms. Lajous
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zaemsky
	Singapore	Mr. Bhatia
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/2002/746)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-50270 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/2002/746)

The President: On behalf of the Council, I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General at this meeting and the one to follow. It is very good that he can join us for these mandate renewals.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, document S/2002/746.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2002/846, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

I should also like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following documents: S/2002/739, letter dated 9 July 2002 from the representative of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General, and S/2002/806, letter dated 22 July 2002 from the representative of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote of the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1428 (2002).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4594

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4594th meeting

Tuesday, 30 July 2002, 5.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Raytchev
	Cameroon	Mr. Chungong
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Kavanagh
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Mexico	Ms. Lajous
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zaemsky
	Singapore	Mr. Bhatia
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2002/178)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-50276 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara
(S/2002/178)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara, document S/2002/178. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2002/850, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should also like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following documents: letters from Algeria, contained in documents S/2002/782, S/2002/807 and S/2002/835; a letter from Namibia, contained in document S/2002/749; and letters from Morocco, contained in documents S/2002/758, S/2002/823 and S/2002/832.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by a show of hands.

In favour:

Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1429 (2002).

Since, as far as I can see at this point, there is no other outstanding business for a formal meeting of the Council, this is likely to be the last open meeting under the United Kingdom presidency of the Council. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone within the Council and outside who have supported the United Kingdom presidency during the very busy month of July. But I particularly want to pay tribute to those who help us so well and so uncomplainingly within the Secretariat, the Council Secretariat under Joseph Stephanides, for the most part — it is very good to see the Assistant Secretary-General back with us again today — the conference officers, the verbatim reporters and the press reporters, the interpreters and the translators, the security officers and everyone else who has done excellent work in assisting us.

I hope those of you who will be seeking some refreshment in August, as I shall myself, will return feeling a lot better and that those who are staying here will have a quieter month under the able and probably more controlled presidency of Ambassador Negroponte.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.